

AGENDA

17 June 2019 | CC15, OECD

1st Conference of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment



About the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

Addressing the major challenges of our time – from reducing inequalities, to ensuring prosperity and protecting the future of our planet – will require the active participation of all levels of government, and subnational levels in particular. The World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment promotes dialogue and partnership between national and subnational governments, and international institutions, and seeks to strengthen institutional capacity and renew policy commitments to enhance subnational government finance.

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1st Conference of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

Towards a global understanding of multilevel governance and finance systems

Agenda

09:00

Registration open

09:30-11:00

Launch of the 2019 World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment

The World Observatory has conducted the largest quantitative and qualitative data collection to date on multi-level governance and finance, encompassing over 120 countries. The study paints a vivid portrait of the complex and dynamic environment for policymaking and investment across the globe. Its findings feed the development of evidence-based dialogue across levels of government, as stakeholders at all levels seek to spark innovative change and truly transformative policies.

Master of Ceremony: Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Director, Centre for SMEs, Entrepreneurship, Regions and Cities, OECD

Keynote speeches

- Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, OECD
- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG

Chair: Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG

Discussion and reactions on the key findings

- Angel Gurría, Secretary-General, OECD
- Hajia Alima Mahama, Minister of Local Government and Rural Development, Ghana
- Karl-Heinz Lambertz, President of the EU Committee of the Regions
- Rolf Wenzel, Governor, Council of Europe Development Bank
- Souad Abderrahim, Mayor of Tunis, Tunisia

11:00-11:30

Coffee break

Display and demonstration of new *Observatory web tools*

11.30-12.45

Roundtable 1: Making Decentralisation Work to achieve global agendas

Meeting the ambitions of global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis-Ababa Action Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement and the New Urban Agenda will require effective and efficient multi-level governance systems. While significant attention is currently paid to the role of national governments in achieving these agendas, relatively little is played to the role of subnational governments and the governance systems that help – or hinder – effective action across levels of government. By providing a global overview of multi-level governance systems, the World Observatory brings a fresh lens to the international debate on follow-up mechanisms and indicators for achieving these global agendas, including how to make the most of the potential contributions of national *and* subnational governments.

Discussion questions

- What insights can the work of the World Observatory on Subnational Government Finance and Investment provide about the current role of subnational governments in implementing global agendas?
- How can decentralisation systems, including fiscal decentralisation frameworks, be more effective and more conducive to promote regional and local development?
- How to enhance the dialogue between national and subnational governments to work together to meet the objectives of global agendas?

Chair: Christel Alvergne, Regional Advisor/Coordinator, UNCDF

Scene-setter: Ms. Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Unit Decentralisation, public investment and subnational finance, OECD

- Karine de Frémont, Director of Urban Transition and Mobility Department, French Development Agency
- George McCarthy, President and CEO, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
- Junghun Kim, President, Fiscal Policy Institute, Korea and Chair of the OECD Network on Fiscal Relations across Levels of Government
- Elisiane Mangrich, Responsible for Studies, National Confederation of Municipalities of Brazil (Mercociudades/FLACMA)
- Octavi de la Varga, Secretary-General, Metropolis
- Emil Dardak, Vice-governor of East Java, Indonesia and representative of UCLG ASPAC

Roundtable discussion

12.45-14.00	Lunch break
Display and demonstration of new <i>Observatory web tools</i>	
14.00-15.30	Roundtable 2: Making the most of public investment across levels of government: how to overcome the shortcomings of traditional financial schemes and increase local capital investment

A dramatic increase in capital investment will be needed to achieve sustainable development, and traditional financing schemes are falling short. Filling the funding gap for infrastructure, including green infrastructure projects, will require action by public and private actors at the national and subnational level. Drawing on insights from the World Observatory as well as on the OECD Principles on Effective Public Investments across Levels of Government, representatives from national and subnational governments and international institutions would be invited to discuss how to improve public investment across levels of government, with a focus on the subnational level.

Discussion questions

- How can national strategies support subnational public investment, and how can subnational investments contribute to a coherent national strategy for sustainable development?
- How can subnational sources of funding be diversified, and how can subnational governments better mobilise private investment?
- What are the key funding and capacity challenges in different national contexts, and how can they be bridged?

Chair: Joaquim Oliveira Martins, Deputy Director, Centre for Entrepreneurship, SMEs, Regions and Cities, OECD

Scene-setter: Paul Smoke, Professor of Public Finance and Planning and Director of International Programs, New York University

- Eric Von Breska, Director of the Directorate on General Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
- Chiara Bronchi, Chief Thematic Officer, Asian Development Bank
- Preben Gregersen, Director Regional Policy, Government of Denmark and Vice Chair of the OECD Regional Development Policy Committee
- Flo Clucas, Councillor of Cheltenham Borough Council, UK and Spokesperson of CEMR
- Christopher P Kang'ombe, Mayor, Kitwe City, Zambia
- Nicolas Painvin, Managing Director, Fitch Ratings

Roundtable discussion

15:30-16:00	Coffee break
Display and demonstration of new <i>Observatory web tools</i>	
16:00-17.30	Roundtable 3: Data collection and management on subnational finance: challenges, progresses, ways forward

The World Observatory has taken an important first step towards establishing a common methodology for collecting standardised and comparable data on subnational government finances around the world. However, considerable work remains to be done to close gaps in data transparency and reliability in most developing countries and develop a truly global understanding of the state of subnational finance.

Discussion questions

- What are the challenges in consolidating subnational fiscal data, and how can they be overcome?
- How to improve transparency, quality and reliability of fiscal data?
- What initiatives are already underway to address these issues? How can other stakeholders be implicated in developing and implementing long-term solutions to these challenges?

Chair: Edgardo Bilsky, Director of Research, UCLG

Scene-setter: Isabelle Chatry, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD

- Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre
- Nan Zhang, Policy and Research Analyst, UNCDF
- Elton Stafa, Network of Associations of Local Governments in South-East Europe
- Vincent N'cho Kouaoh, Vice-governor of the Autonomous Commune of Abidjan, Ivory Coast
- Thomas Rougier, Secretary General, Observatory of Local Finance and Public Management, France

Roundtable discussion

17.30-18.00	Closing Session – Ways Forward
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Chair: Rudiger Ahrend, Head of Section, Economic Analysis, Statistics and Multi-level Governance, OECD

- Emilia Saiz, Secretary General, UCLG
- Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD
- Closing remarks from key partners

18.00-19.00	Cocktail (Salon du Parc)
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Background information

Participants

Participants need to register on-line: <http://www.oecd.org/cfe/regional-policy/Observatory-on-Subnational-Government-Finance-and-Investment.htm>. Only registered participants will be able to access the conference. In case of difficulty in the registration process, please contact Nikolina Jonsson (Nikolina.JONSSON@oecd.org).

Meeting information

The meeting will be held in Room CC15 of the OECD Conference centre.

Badge and security

Security arrangements are tight around the OECD complex. Participants will need to be registered for the meeting to obtain access to the conference centre (security badge). There is an initial security check outside the Conference Centre where participants must show a QR pass (sent out by email to registered participants and can be in either printed form or on a smart phone). There is a second formal security entrance inside the Centre where you will be given a badge.

On arrival, you need to register at the Reception desk to obtain your visitor's badge. Please bring an ID with you.

You need to plan around 15 minutes to go through the security measures at the entrance. For security reasons, you must wear your visitor's badge at all times.

Interpretation

Interpretation in English and French will be provided during the meeting.

Cocktail

All participants in the meeting are invited to the cocktail.

Access to OECD

The entrance is located at:

2, rue André Pascal – 75016 Paris

Transport:

Metro/RER

- Line 9, La Muette station (9 minutes by foot)
- RER C, Avenue Henri Martin (7 minutes by foot) or Boulainvilliers station (11 minutes by foot)

Bus routes 22, 32, 52, 63, PC1 Stations

- La Muette-Boulainvilliers • Octave feuillet • Porte de La Muette

More information at: https://www.oecd.org/site/conferencecentre/Get_to_OECD_Muette.pdf

Useful contacts

For any question, please contact:

OECD

- Dorothee Allain-Dupré, Head of Unit, Decentralisation, Public Investment and Subnational Finance (dorothee.allain-dupre@oecd.org; tel. 01 45 24 82 43)
- Isabelle Chatry, Senior Policy Analyst, Decentralisation, Public Investment and Subnational Finance (isabelle.chatry@oecd.org; tel. 01 45 24 98 02)

UCLG

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