



BUSINESSatOECD

Year Highlights

*How we delivered value
to our members*

May 2022 – May 2023

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As the world continues to face major geopolitical challenges and the global economy remains fragile, the role of the OECD is more important than ever to promote multilateralism, market-based economic principles, private sector led growth and shared values – such as democracy, rule of law, integrity and private initiative.

As the official business voice to the OECD and a trusted partner for over 60 years, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) has stepped up its activities over the past year to support policies that nurture the real economy and has contributed to early policy making as well as the development of several key OECD instruments to enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development, and societal prosperity.

Our contributions to the OECD rely on the close cooperation with our members. In this regard, we were particularly pleased to welcome our second member organization from Costa Rica in 2022, and in 2023 the Polish Confederation Lewiatan, which makes our membership fully representative of business in the OECD. Over the last twelve months, we facilitated the participation of over 1000 business representatives from our global network in OECD virtual and in person meetings – from the working level to Ministerial sessions.

We participated in seven OECD Ministerial-level meetings allowing our members to impact policy making at the highest levels – including on public governance, Southeast Asia, food and agriculture, education policy, employment and labor, the digital economy and responsible business conduct. At the same time, the guidance we provided through our regular leadership dialogue with the OECD Secretary-General and Ambassadors, as well as our contributions to the Annual Ministerial Council Meeting, helped shape the Organization's strategic direction.

Throughout our policy engagements with the OECD and governments, we underlined the importance of upholding market principles and fostering competitiveness, a predictable and enabling regulatory, trade and investment policy environment, addressing skills mismatches, advancing coherent policies for job creation and inclusive economies, and reducing regulatory burden on business – all of which are critical for companies, both large and small.

We also increased our contributions to respond to the OECD's global reach. As we closely follow the OECD accession process and global relations activities, we welcomed new observer organizations from Peru, Indonesia, Singapore, and Ukraine. We also further strengthened our network of international sectoral organizations. Engaging in the B20 process, we closely collaborated with Kadin Indonesia in 2022 and now with the Confederation of Indian Industry to promote our membership's joint positions and ensure a global level playing field.

As a member-driven organization, we are grateful for the active contributions and support from our global network and leadership. Special thanks also to the *Business at OECD* team for driving our business agenda and cooperation with the OECD throughout this year. We look forward to working closely with all of you to further build on our engagement with the OECD in the year to come.

Hanni Rosenbaum
Executive Director
Business at OECD (BIAC)



YEAR HIGHLIGHTS: OUR ANNUAL ENGAGEMENT WITH OECD LEADERSHIP

Ministerial Council Meeting

In June 2022, we actively participated in the OECD's **2022 Ministerial Council Meeting**. Close to 70 Ministers of finance, economy, foreign affairs, trade and other government departments from OECD Member and Partner countries convened to set the strategic outlook for market-based democracies in the year ahead. The ongoing economic and social consequences of Russia's invasion of Ukraine in the post-pandemic world underlined the importance of the 2021 Ministerial. The event, which was chaired by Italy, with Mexico and Norway serving as Vice-Chairs, shaped an agenda focused on *"The Future We Want: Better Policies for the Next Generation and a Sustainable Transition"*. Our Chair, Rick Johnston, led our high-level engagement during the discussions, which relayed the business community's shared priorities in the context of an increasingly challenging international environment: defending the global rules-based order; ensuring the safe supply of energy without undermining the goals of the green transition; strengthening pandemic prevention frameworks; and expanding OECD engagement in Africa.

Led by our Chair Rick Johnston, our business delegation shared tangible recommendations to affirm the role of business-led growth and competitive markets. Business speakers stressed the need for urgent action to address immediate economic constraints related to supply chains, high energy costs, labor shortages, and bureaucratic burden for business. We further underlined the private sector's role in gaining momentum on long-term objectives, such as an inclusive green, digital transition and sustainable health systems, as well as enabling tax and regulatory frameworks. In an increasingly fragmented international environment, we pointed to the vital role of the OECD to advance multilateralism and set evidence-based standards for a pro-business environment globally.



The OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann with our Chair, Rick Johnston, after our Annual Consultation with OECD Ambassadors and Leadership in February 2023.

Annual Consultation with OECD Ambassadors and Leadership

In February 2023, business leaders from our global network presented priorities for *"Security, Sustainability and Successful Business"* to the OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann, Organization leadership and Ambassadors. The meeting served as the 2023 edition of our **Annual Consultation with OECD Leadership** - a longstanding tradition that delivers business priorities for OECD policymaking at the outset of every year.



Our Chair, Rick Johnston, and our Executive Director, Hanni Rosenbaum, with our delegation to the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2022.

YEAR HIGHLIGHTS: OUR ENGAGEMENT IN OECD MINISTERIAL LEVEL MEETINGS

OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum

In October 2022, we engaged in the **OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum** in Hanoi, Vietnam held under the theme “*Connecting Regions: Partnerships for Resilient and Sustainable Supply Chains*”. In support of a systematic exchange on common policy challenges and ways forward for the region, we issued a joint business statement with ASEAN-BAC and contributed to Ministerial sessions underlining the need to build stronger partnerships that enable supply chain resilience, and enhanced business-government collaboration for sustainable economies. With the support of our *Business at OECD* Southeast Asia Contact Group members, our former Chair and Co-Chair of the OECD-SEA Business Network, Phil O'Reilly, led our private sector delegation.

OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers

In November 2022, we contributed to the **OECD Meeting of Agriculture Ministers** held under the theme “*Building Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in a Changing Environment: Shared Challenges, Transformative Solutions*”. As the session convened Agriculture Ministers and Heads of Delegations from 50 countries and 5 international organisations, we launched our *Peace for Food* Campaign Synthesis Report, outlining relevant challenges confronting global food systems and the immediate, medium- and long-term priorities of the agriculture sector. Highlighting ways forward to strengthen public-private cooperation, our business engagement was led by Food and Agriculture Committee Chair, Metin Akman.

OECD Public Governance Ministerial

In November 2022, we joined the **OECD Public Governance Ministerial** on “*Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy*”. Convening Ministers and high-level representatives from 38 OECD countries, the European Union, and OECD accession candidates, the meeting discussed the need to strengthen representation, build resilience to foreign influence, and address governance issues in the green and digital transformation. Our business delegation was led by our Governance and Regulatory Policy Committee Chair, Yilmaz Argüden, and underlined strong democratic values and institutions as the basis for a transparent and conducive business environment. In this context, we also released a statement on “*Addressing Mis- and Dis-information and Rights in the Digital Age*”.

OECD Education and Skills Ministerial

In December 2022, we participated to the **OECD Education and Skills Ministerial Meeting** addressing “*Re-building an Inclusive and Equitable Society through Education*”. The session gathered Education Ministers from OECD countries and beyond to address equity and inclusion in education, curricula to meet learners’ socio-emotional needs, the role of digitalization, and foundations for lifelong learning. Our Education Committee Chair, Charles Fadel, led our engagement, and we contributed our statement “*Education for a Resilient, Regenerative Future*” emphasizing the need for determined investment in redesigning education curricula to match modern life needs and occupational demands; improving teachers’ capabilities and deploying appropriate technology to reinforce these goals.

OECD Digital Economy Ministerial

In December 2022 we participated to the **OECD Digital Economy Ministerial** addressing policies for a “*Trusted, Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future*” in Gran Canaria, Spain. At the week-long meeting, Ministers, business and civil society representatives from nearly 40 countries, addressed a cross-cutting policy agenda featuring multistakeholder discussions on data governance, digital security and safety, connectivity and emerging issues such as immersive technologies and Artificial Intelligence. Over 100 business representatives joined our delegation to lead *Business at OECD* events as part of the Ministerial Stakeholder Day on subjects of digital inclusion in Latin America, trusted government access to data held by the private sector, data flows for Artificial Intelligence, as well as an Executive Roundtable on the business vision for our digital future. Key deliverables included a landmark *OECD Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data held by Private Sector Entities*, a set of *Recommendations on Digital Security*, and a new *OECD Global Forum on Technology*.

OECD Ministerial on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)

In February 2023, we contributed to the **OECD Ministerial Meeting on Responsible Business Conduct (RBC)**. Over 400 senior representatives from OECD countries and beyond, the European Union and Intergovernmental Organizations, as well as selected stakeholders convened in Paris to reflect on the strategic role of RBC as a cornerstone of the international rules-based trade and investment system. As the session focused on “*Promoting and enabling responsible business conduct in the global economy*”, the ongoing revision of the *OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (MNE)* compounded the importance of this Ministerial. We released a statement underlining the private sector’s commitment to responsible business conduct while raising business concerns in the context of the ongoing revision of the *OECD MNE Guidelines*. Our business delegation led by Ingrid Thijssen, VNO-NCW, relayed these messages to Ministers.

OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial

In June 2022, we participated in the **OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial**, convening Ministers from OECD and Partner countries under the theme “*Moving Beyond the Covid-19 Crisis to a Better Labour Market that Works For All*”. Representing the private sector, we emphasized the importance of enhanced collaboration in support of dynamic labor markets, decisive action to address skills mismatches and labor shortages, and joint efforts for inclusiveness in labor markets. We also participated in a focus session discussing concrete strategies to support young people, drawing upon our *Business for Youth* campaign.



Our Responsible Business Conduct Committee Chair, Winand Quaadvlieg of VNO-NCW (left), and President of VNO-NCW, Ingrid Thijssen (centre), with our delegation to the OECD Ministerial Meeting for Responsible Business Conduct in February 2023.



Our Committee on Digital Economic Policy Co-Chair, Chris Sharrock of Microsoft, with our delegation at the OECD Digital Economy Ministerial in Gran Canaria, Spain in December 2022.



Our delegation at the OECD Public Governance Ministerial in November 2022.

OUR POLICY GROUP UPDATES

Taxation

As the OECD is leading discussions on global **tax policy** solutions, the Organization's work in this area remains central to address issues related to the digitalizing economy, environmental taxation, transfer pricing, tax treaty issues, development, VAT, and tax administration. Throughout the year, we have worked closely with the OECD to provide technical advice to advance OECD initiatives across a broad range of issues, including the OECD/G20 project on *Addressing the Tax Challenges Arising from the Digitisation of the Economy* and its two-pillar solution.

As **Pillar One** focuses on profit re-allocation, we have submitted six responses to the OECD on its rolling public consultations since May 2022. Our contributions addressed specific aspects of the proposed rules, while focusing on administration and mechanisms to improve tax certainty for business. We further emphasized that Pillar One needs to achieve its stated aim of making jurisdictions commit to remove existing unilateral digital services taxes, and pause the introduction of any new ones. We further proactively engaged with the *OECD Task Force on the Digital Economy* in relation to *Amount B of Pillar One*, which seeks to allocate a fixed return to jurisdictions for certain baseline marketing and distribution activities.

As **Pillar Two** focuses on a global minimum tax, we submitted responses to the OECD's public consultations on the *GloBE Information Return* and tax certainty mechanisms for the Pillar Two rules. In this context, we stressed the need for efficiency, reduced complexity, the minimization of compliance costs and consistent application of the rules across jurisdictions. In addition to the public consultations, we also actively engaged with the OECD Secretariat and members of the *OECD Committee on Fiscal Affairs' Working Party 11* on the design of transitional safe harbors based on country-by-country reporting data and the *GloBE Information Return*.

Advancing **additional priority work streams** in our Tax Committee, we addressed topics such as tax and the environment, the taxation of mobile workers, tax certainty and the *OECD International Compliance Assurance Program (ICAP)*, tax and development and the digitization of tax systems. In particular, in November 2022, we launched a *Statement of Best Practices for Engaging with Tax Administrations in Developing Countries* as well as a set of *Principles for the Digitization of Tax Affairs*. We also continue to lead business input related to the OECD's work on VAT/GST as well as the *OECD/G20 Common Reporting Standard*. We continue to organize conferences with Member organizations including USCIB (June) and Keidanren (October).

Trade and Investment

OECD work on **international trade** shapes international policy making by raising awareness of existing barriers to fair international competition – be it through research on global value chains, trade in value-added, or the flow of services. Building on its insights and evidence-based analysis, the Organization provides Trade Ministers and senior policymakers with actionable policy recommendations. As the OECD also acts as a knowledge partner to international bodies, including the WTO, the G7 and G20, UNCTAD and APEC, it strongly influences debates among the world's most important economies.

Drawing on the practical experience of our diverse global network over the past year, we emphasized that open markets and multilateralism are fundamental to build back better trade and called on the OECD to counter economic nationalism, unilateralism, and protectionism. In light of the ongoing accession process, we kept contributed on-the-ground insights to the OECD and delegations for the forthcoming *Market Openness Reviews*, with a view to leverage pro-trade reform in OECD accession countries.

Our Policy Group Updates

We also continued our close engagement with the *OECD Trade Committee* as discussions on trade policy and policies for responsible business conduct deepened in light of increasing supply chain due diligence expectations. We continued the advocacy of our flagship publication “*Building Back Better Trade*”, and shared with OECD leadership and senior trade representatives on-the ground insights to minimize supply chain disruptions following the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Through its legal instruments, including the *OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises*, the *OECD Policy Framework for Investment* and the *OECD Guidelines on National Security Policies*, the OECD supports open markets and works to enhance the contribution of **international investment** to growth and sustainable development. The OECD also embarked on several new work streams aiming to foster sustainability aspects of investment, including in the context of the organization’s work on investment treaties and the *OECD FDI Qualities project*.

Business at OECD helps shape OECD discussions on investment through regular interaction with the *OECD Investment Committee*, participation in major events, and regular comments on key initiatives. In the past year, we continued to encourage sound and stable investment conditions for business and supported the OECD’s leading role in promoting open markets for investment. We also stressed the increasing tension between considerations for openness, ESG, and security in investment policymaking and highlighted that they are not mutually exclusive but need to be integrated. We are part of the *FDI Qualities Advisory Group*, which will soon be established.

Corporate Governance and Responsible Business Conduct

With its *Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*, the OECD hosts the most comprehensive multilaterally agreed **responsible business conduct** instrument, which is supported by a unique implementation mechanism. Our contribution over the past twelve months has

focused on providing the business perspective to the update of this important instrument highlighting the need to ensure practical and realistic approaches. While the recent effort was much more than a targeted update, with significant changes in the areas of environment and digital, among others, our contribution was instrumental in ensuring the introduction of important qualifiers to maintain needed flexibility and preserving previously agreed concepts on due diligence. To that end, we contributed to multiple consultations in close cooperation with other Committees. Going forward, we will call for balanced implementation and outreach with a view to foster a more global level playing field.

The *G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance* are recognized as the leading global standard to guide policymakers and regulators in devising effective institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks for the **corporate governance** of listed companies. In the context of the current revision of these *Principles*, we provided detailed input throughout the process, including to focused discussions on sustainability, the role of the board, risk oversight and internal controls, board committees and the role of external auditors. As the *G20/OECD Principles* will be finalized for the June **OECD Ministerial Council Meeting**, we will continue to support global dialogue to help foster long-term investment, financial stability and integrity. We are also contributing to the update of the *OECD Guidelines on Corporate Governance of State-Owned Enterprises*, which can make an important contribution to a level playing field.

The **fight against corruption** is a joint objective of business and governments. The OECD has established itself as one of the leading international organizations in the fight against corruption thanks to its *Anti-Bribery Convention* and related instruments, addressing bribery in the context of SOEs, development aid, and export credits. To highlight our commitment over the last twelve months, we launched an actionable anti-corruption strategy, which guides our *Anti-Corruption Committee’s* efforts going forward, including our proposal to promote ‘zero corruption’ as the 18th SDG. In January, we launched a major report that sheds light on the role of digital technology in the fight against corruption, and which is complemented by a set of company case studies.

We are proud to be a Knowledge Partner at this year's *OECD Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum* in May and will launch a dedicated project on anti-corruption and education to help spread a culture of integrity.

Employment, Skills and Education

The OECD promotes **employment and labor policies** that foster job creation, enhance workforce skills, and improve working conditions through evidence-based research, policy analysis, and global cooperation. Over the past year, we have underlined the importance of addressing labor shortages and skills mismatches, supporting flexible labor markets that foster inclusion and a comprehensive policy approach to job strategies that support a resilient, job-rich recovery. We encouraged the OECD to support active and inclusive labor market policies that are supportive of the green and digital transitions, and offered business recommendations regarding the impact of AI in the workplace and labor market. At the *Employment and Labor Ministerial Meeting* in June 2022, we underscored the importance of enhanced political collaboration for dynamic labor markets, decisive action on skills, and inclusiveness in labor markets, with an emphasis on youth. We also worked closely both with the B7 and B20 to leverage business messages.

OECD work on **education** and training advances policy cooperation and solutions to enhance employability, prepare and equip individuals with the knowledge, skills and competencies to navigate and adapt to demands of current economic and social environments, the digital transformation and green transition. In November 2023, we launched a joint report with the *International Organization of Employers (IOE)* addressing how education and training policies can contribute to well-functioning labor markets and sustainable enterprises, including case studies from Argentina, India, Italy and South Africa. In our statement to the December 2022 OECD Education Ministerial, "*Education for a Resilient, Regenerative Future*", we emphasized to Ministers the importance of redesigning education curricula to match modern life needs and occupational demands; the need to invest in and elevate the teachers' profession; the need

to deploy appropriate technology to enhance the capacity of our education systems. We also contributed to the *OECD Education Policy Reform Dialogues* identifying practical business actions and partnership in support of the advancement of effective and efficient education and skills systems that support employability.

Economic Policy and Regulation

In the current context of increased economic uncertainty, the OECD is a leading purveyor of cross-cutting statistics and fact-based policy recommendations on **economic policy**. Through a unique system of peer review and monitoring of implementation, the OECD's economic policy recommendations have important bearing on the business environments in OECD and many emerging economies. During the past year, our Economic Policy Committee has provided analysis on inflation, supply chain disruptions, as well as the financing of the green transition. We have actively engaged in discussions of the *OECD Economic Policy Committee* and its *Working Parties* and submitted comments to key publications, including on the effects of corporate taxation on business investment and updated long-term scenarios on the energy transition. Additionally, we have supported the OECD Secretariat in liaising with private sector representatives to support their work the *OECD Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA)*.

The OECD contributes in-depth analysis on **financial markets** through its whole-economy expertise and its focus on economic growth and stability. As neither a financial regulator nor an international lender, the OECD maintains an independent, unique perspective, and its contributions to the G20 continue to grow. Over the past year, our Finance Committee has focused on providing input on OECD discussions related to sustainable finance and digital banking and supported the OECD's workstreams that contribute to a strong and sustainable financial system. The Committee is also engaged in cross-cutting activities such as financing the green transition, as well as SMEs.

OECD work on **public governance and regulatory policy** provides a platform for governments to exchange on the design of policy-making processes, evaluate their efficiency and effectiveness, and build upon international experience, which substantially determines the business environment. In this regard, our Governance and Regulatory Policy Committee continues to contribute to the OECD's work on developing a global vision for regulatory policy and governance, and to advocate for competitive and transparent regulations that support business, entrepreneurship and innovation. Key activities over the past year included our participation in the *OECD Public Governance Ministerial*, and our submission on "Addressing Mis- and Dis-information".

OECD work on competition actively encourages governments to tackle anti-competitive practices and fosters market-oriented reform throughout the world. In times of increased unilateral regulatory approaches, the *OECD Competition Committee* brings together the heads of national Competition Authorities to discuss best practices and effective enforcement of competition laws. In this context, our *Competition Committee* has provided a crucial contribution to OECD discussions on competition policy during the past year, including on energy policy, competitive neutrality, and inflation.

Digital Economy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Digital transformation remains a cross-cutting theme across sectors and policy areas, and the OECD plays a key role in developing evidence-based policies across issues, including leading work on data governance, digital security and safety, connectivity, AI and emerging technologies. With data being a fundamental element for economic growth, competitiveness and wellbeing, we have continued to emphasize the need for coherent and globally interoperable data policy frameworks that facilitate more responsible data sharing, enforceable cross-border data flows with trust. Our work with the OECD has also emphasized the need for frameworks that facilitate investment in and deployment of affordable

accessible high-speed connectivity and secure sustainable digital infrastructure, and practical digital technology solutions for narrowing the digital divide, including solutions for enhanced access to education, training, upskilling and increased technology adoption as part of capacity building for SMEs.

In December 2022 at the *OECD Digital Economy Ministerial*, we welcomed the new landmark *OECD Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data held by Private Sector Entities* and the important new *OECD Recommendations for Digital Security*. We contributed to important OECD work on AI related issues including participation to the *OECD ONE.AI Network of Experts*, the newly launched *OECD Working Party on AI Governance*, the *OECD Project addressing AI for Productivity Work and Skills (WIPS)*, and supported the *USCIB/Business at OECD/OECD conference addressing "Implementation of AI Across Sectors"*. In the year ahead, we will continue to focus on advancing digital policies fostering trusted cross border data flows, ensuring a safe, secure digital environment and fostering investment in high quality affordable and accessible connectivity. We will engage with the *OECD Global Forum on Technology*, and continue work on a new special project together with the *USCIB Foundation on Privacy, Immersive Tech and the Metaverse*, which will include expert roundtables in Paris, Washington D.C., and Kyoto.

The OECD provides governments with the analytical basis to develop **SME policies** based on economic performance reviews, data collection, projections, and other policy analysis in multiple areas of interest to SMEs. Considering the global energy crisis in recent months, our SME Committee carried out a survey to identify the *Energy Crisis Impact for SMEs*, outline the most pressing challenges, and the policy measures needed. We also identified key policy recommendations regarding government support during times of crisis, such as the provision of precisely targeted immediate support and more long-term investments in energy efficiency and alternative sources. Going forward, our priority will be the upcoming *OECD SME Ministerial*, which will be preceded by a joint *Business at OECD-OECD* high-level roundtable on 26 June 2023.

Environment and Energy

With a firm commitment to the horizontal integration of **environmental sustainability**, the OECD contributes to national, regional, and global policy discussions on pressing issues including climate change, resource efficiency and circular economy, biodiversity and others. As OECD Environment Ministers provided the Organization with a new mandate in March 2022, we have been actively contributing throughout the year to the OECD's cross-cutting climate agenda to support country efforts to move to net-zero emissions pathways, to enable sustainable finance and investment, and to seek synergies between trade and environmental sustainability. As the Organization launched its *Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches* (IFCMA) - an initiative designed to help improve the global impact of emissions reduction efforts through better data and information sharing, evidence-based mutual learning and inclusive multilateral dialogue - we have been actively engaging with OECD Directors in moving this project forward, calling for close integration of business. Promoting resource efficiency and enabling circular economy business models has been another top priority, as we actively contributed to the ongoing negotiations on the integration of e-waste in the *OECD Decision on the Transboundary Movement of Waste Destined for Recovery Operations*.

As the current *energy crisis* provides strong incentives to decisively move forward with the climate transition, we have strengthened our high-level engagement underlining that steps are needed to secure affordable energy access and reduce the energy price burden on many businesses. As our December 2022 *SME Energy Survey* identified that 99% of SMEs are affected by the energy crisis, and 46% of respondents see these more challenging than the initial phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, this has a profound impact on overall economic performance, erodes international competitiveness, and exacerbates supply chain pressures. In this regard, strengthening collaboration with the IEA and across OECD Committees will remain a priority going forward, as the OECD can and should contribute tangible, meaningful, whole-of-the-economy recommendations to stimulate the energy transition.

The OECD also enhances **chemical and biosafety** and generates about 309 million Euros annually in cost savings for business and governments by avoiding duplicative data requirements through its *Environment, Health and Safety Program*. In this context, we have been actively contributing throughout the year to the development of policies and instruments for chemical testing and assessment, fostering information exchange, and providing a framework for private sector exchanges. In this regard, we also continued our efforts to pursue an innovation-friendly business environment for nanotechnology, as we provided fact-based business input to the activities related to safety assessments of manufactured nanomaterials.

Food, Health and Wellbeing

As a global leader in the field of evidence-based policy analysis, the OECD provides well-established agricultural policy monitoring and evaluation to support sustainable productivity growth in **agriculture**, including through the flagship *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook*. As climate change, the pandemic and conflict have led to significant turbulences in food markets over recent months, our Food and Agriculture Committee has been driving forward its *Peace for Food* initiative, highlighting business priorities as well as the private sector's commitments towards global objectives. Our virtual *Launch Event* in July and our *High-Level Paris Roundtable* in October 2022 focused on sustainable productivity growth and transforming global food systems. We also co-organized the *Agrifood Forum 2022* in Vilnius, Lithuania in November, and presented our *Peace for Food* synthesis report to OECD Agriculture Ministers. Our May 2023 "*What's Next for Agriculture?*" report outlines current challenges and key measures for advancing sustainability and innovation in agriculture despite current challenges. Our business recommendations calling for further public-private cooperation, reducing productivity gaps through investment, increasing spending on agriculture research, and fostering sustainable farming practices were taken up in the *B7*



Our Policy Group Updates

Tokyo Summit Joint Recommendations, and were further discussed at our joint *Istanbul Roundtable* with the OECD Istanbul Centre in May 2023.

On **health and wellbeing**, the OECD helps countries achieve high-performing health systems, including by measuring health outcomes and the use of health system resources, and analyzing policies to improve access, efficiency and quality of healthcare. The Organization also seeks to provide policy guidance to strengthen health systems resilience, bringing together systemic issues including labor shortages, digitalization, continuity of care and mental health. In this regard, our Health Committee launched a global campaign *Stronger Together* to showcase the work of national business organizations and their corporate affiliates with regards to fostering health resilience. Our campaign calls on governments and the OECD to empower populations and make citizens champions of prevention, adopt whole-of-government strategies to make health systems both sustainable and resilient, incentivize scientific progress and deepen dialogue and partnerships with the business community. To this end, our forthcoming *Business at OECD Health Forum* will provide tangible opportunities to communicate with governments and stakeholders ahead of the *OECD Health Ministerial* in the fall of 2023.

Development and Emerging Economies

Development has always been an integral part of the OECD's mission of 'promoting better policies for better lives' within and beyond OECD countries. This includes work on the general role of the private sector in economic development, the tools and recommendations to improve the investment climate, and reform efforts to attract the funds necessary for the achieving the *Sustainable Development Goals*. Over the past year, we continued to highlight the important role that private investment and private finance play in this area. We supported reform efforts to establish an enabling business environment in developing countries, including efforts to reduce barriers to trade and investment, fight against corruption and illicit trade, and promote good governance and domestic tax reform.

As the OECD pursues efforts to significantly scale up its engagement with selected non-member countries, the Organization's dedicated **Southeast Asia Regional Program** supports the region in its domestic priorities, policy reforms and regional integration efforts, and encourages a systematic exchange of experience to develop common solutions to regional and global policy challenges. As Co-Chairs of the *OECD-SEA Business Network* with the *ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC)*, we jointly developed the actionable policy recommendations and presented them to the OECD and ASEAN Ministers at the *OECD Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum* in October 2022, underlining the importance of partnerships for resilient and sustainable supply chains. We also emphasized the significance of a competitive domestic and foreign investment environment in the region at the *Southeast Asia Regional Program meeting* in April 2023.

Representing like-minded market-based democracies, the *OECD Council at Ministerial level* adopted a resolution in 2007 to strengthen the co-operation with **China** as a 'key partner' through a program of enhanced engagement. Based on the common interest of its member countries, the OECD advances policy dialogue with China in selected areas, promotes progress and convergence of China's policies, regulations and guidelines towards selected OECD standards and legal instruments. Our China Expert Group continues to contribute expert guidance to China–OECD cooperation in areas that improve trade and investment conditions, as well as the overall business environment in China. Taking into account OECD members' relations with China as a cooperation partner, economic competitor and systemic rival, the group encourages a mutually beneficial relationship – recognizing that differentiated approaches across policy areas may be necessary to effectively progress towards concrete results.

FLAGSHIP PUBLICATIONS

Our Annual Engagement with OECD Leadership



The Future We Want
Statement to the OECD
Ministerial Council Meeting
(June 2022)



Security, Sustainability,
Successful Business
Statement for the Annual Consultation
with OECD Ambassadors
(February 2023)

Our Engagement in OECD Ministerial Level Meetings



Business Priorities for the Future
of Work
Contribution to the OECD
Ministerial Meeting on Employment
(June 2022)



Partnerships for Resilient and
Sustainable Supply Chains
Contribution to the OECD
Southeast Asia Ministerial Forum
(October 2022)



Peace for Food Synthesis Report
Contribution to the OECD Ministerial
Meeting on Agriculture
(November 2022)



Reinforcing Democracy and Building
Trust
Contribution to the OECD Ministerial
Meeting on Public Governance
(November 2022)



Education for a Resilient,
Regenerative Future
Contribution to the OECD
Ministerial Meeting
on Education and Skills
(December 2022)



A Business Vision
for our Digital Future
Contribution to the OECD Ministerial
Meeting on Digital Economy
(December 2022)



Promoting and Enabling Responsible Business Conduct in the Global Economy
Contribution to the OECD Ministerial Meeting on Responsible Business Conduct
(February 2023)

Additional Policy Publications and Commentary from our Policy Groups are available on [our website](#).

