

**PUBLIC GOVERNANCE DIRECTORATE  
PUBLIC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

**WORKING PARTY ON OPEN GOVERNMENT**

**Draft Agenda of the 7th Meeting of the Working Party on Open Government**

4-5 September 2024  
Seoul, Korea

This document presents the draft agenda of the 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Working Party on Open Government (WPOG), which will be held on 4-5 September 2024. The meeting will take place in-person in Seoul, Korea.

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# 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the OECD Working Party on Open Government

*“Open government for stronger democracies and increased trust”*

## DRAFT AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION

*Chair: Katju Holkeri (Finland)*

**Tuesday, 3 September 2024**

**Meeting of the OECD Network on Innovative, Digital and Open Government in Southeast Asia**

**Wednesday, 4 September 2024**

**09:00-12:30**

### **Open Government Symposium organised by the Government of Korea**

The OECD Korea Policy Centre, the Korea Open Government Committee (under the Ministry of Interior and Safety) and the Korea Institute of Public Administration will jointly host a symposium on “Pursuing a citizen-centric, action-oriented government through open governance”. The symposium will focus on the ways in which transparency, accountability and citizen participation can help countries address challenges of future generations, such as depopulation and climate change. The symposium will further provide an opportunity for countries to discuss the outcomes from the Summit for Democracy which took place in Korea in March 2024, and highlight their relevance for the global open government agenda.

The symposium will be open to Korean public officials, Delegates of the OECD Network on Innovative, Digital and Open Government in Southeast Asia, and Delegates of the OECD Working Party on Open Government.

**Lunch provided by the Government of Korea**

**14:00-14:30**

### **Item 1. Opening remarks**

- **Minister Lee Sang-min**, Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS), **Korea**
- **High level representative from the OECD**
- **Katju Holkeri**, Financial Counsellor and Head of the Governance Policy Unit, Ministry of Finance, **Finland**, and Chair of the OECD Working Party on Open Government

**14:30-15:00**

**Item 2. Open government to reinforce democracy: Update on the WPOG’s contribution to the OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative**

OECD Action Plan on Enhancing Representation, Participation and Openness in Public Life

Reinforcing Democracy Monitoring Report

Since the launch of the Reinforcing Democracy Initiative (RDI) in 2022, the Secretariat has been tracking and analysing collective progress on the Action Plans for 1) Combating Mis-information and Dis-information; 2) Enhancing Participation, Representation and Openness in Public Life, including its Annex on Gender Equality; and 3) Governing Green. Building upon these efforts, additional Action Plans emerged following the discussions of the Public Governance Committee in 2023, focusing on Stronger Open Democracies in a Globalised World and on Transforming Public Governance for Digital Democracy. The 2024 Global Forum on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy, to be held in Milan, Italy, will present the first “Reinforcing Democracy Monitoring Report”, which will serve to assess implementation of the Initiative thus far.

The Working Party on Open Government has been integral to all tenets of the Reinforcing Democracy Initiative since its inception, and leads on Pillar 2 on Enhancing Participation, Representation and Openness in Public Life in particular. In this vein, the Working Party is charged with delivering the Meaningful Citizen Participation Barometer as well as reporting back and guiding the work of the Secretariat in the areas under its purview.

Delegates are invited to respond to the presentation by the Secretariat, provide their feedback on the progress made, and suggest potential future directions for the Initiative.

**15:00-16:30**

**Item 3. Pathways to public trust: Why open government matters to public trust?**

Findings of the 2024 OECD Trust Survey

[Public Communication Scan of the United Kingdom](#)

Public communication in service of citizen participation: Case study of the “imPACTons!” public debate in France

Public trust leads to greater compliance with a wide range of public policies, such as public health responses, regulations and the tax system. It also nurtures political participation, strengthens social cohesion, and builds institutional legitimacy. In the longer term, trust is needed to help governments tackle long-term societal challenges such as climate change, ageing populations, and changing labour markets.

The 2022 [Building Trust to Reinforce Democracy](#) report (and the forthcoming 2024 update) shows strong links between open government reforms and increased public trust. In particular, evidence shows that trust is strongly associated with the perception that government acts on citizens’ inputs and that levels of trust increase significantly when citizens feel that their voices are heard by government. For example, on average across countries, 42.8% of respondents to the OECD Trust Survey say, “it is unlikely that the views shared in a public consultation would influence policy making” while “36.5% say a national policy would be changed if a majority of the population opposed the policy”.

Against this backdrop, governments are reforming how they communicate and respond to the public and identifying innovative ways to bring citizens’ voices into their work. Acting as a vehicle for open-ended and continuous listening by institutions, the public communication function can therefore contribute to

efforts for growing trust in government. This session will be the occasion to showcase the links between the open government agenda and the pressing need to strengthen public trust. In particular, the Secretariat will present the results of the 2024 Trust Survey, the results of two public communication country studies in the [United Kingdom](#) and France, which show the strong potential of inclusive and impactful communication public trust.

Delegates are invited to reflect on the presentation from the OECD Secretariat and the interventions by countries and share how open government and public communication can build trust within a challenging context of polarisation and misinformation.

**16:30-17:00**

**Item 3.a. How digital technologies and artificial intelligence are disrupting open government and democratic governance**

OECD report on the use of emerging technologies for citizen participation

Chapter on AI for public participation for the OECD Report on Governing with AI

OECD Paper on civic technologies for democracy

OECD Action Plan on Transforming Public Governance for Digital Democracy

Countries around the world are increasingly harnessing the power of digital technologies to drive open government reforms, by enhancing transparency, accountability, and citizen participation. OECD countries are using online channels to communicate, connect, and engage with a variety of audiences, while implementing digital technologies to support or enable participatory processes. Emerging technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, have opened new horizons for the government-citizen interaction, including in public service delivery, public communication and citizen participation. Nevertheless, digital technologies are also challenging how democracies function, in particular by excluding citizens with limited access or skills, putting privacy at risk, increasing polarisation, and enabling new forms of surveillance.

OECD countries are leading the way in the digitalisation of democracy, whilst becoming a core element of their open government agendas. As discussed in the OECD Event “Civic Tech for Democracy” in October 2023, technology has the potential to increase trust by improving and enabling new ways for public authorities to interact with the public. However, this potential can only be reached if digital technologies are fit-for-democracy and embedded in institutional frameworks.

In 2024, OECD countries adopted the [Action Plan on Transforming Public Governance for Digital Democracy](#), a blueprint to upgrade democratic institutions to respond to the opportunities and challenges of the digital era. In addition, the Secretariat will present new publications, developed jointly with OECD member countries, including a collaboration with the European Commission, Portugal, Spain, and the Netherlands to map the opportunities and the challenges of emerging technologies, in particular artificial intelligence, for citizen participation. Furthermore, the Report on Public Communication in the digital age and the Report on civic technologies for democracy will provide good practices and actionable recommendations to harness the impact of digital technologies.

Delegates are invited to use this session as a platform to exchange knowledge, present good practices, and share needs in the use of digital technologies to foster open government reforms.

**Action:** *For comments and discussion*

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**Refreshments**

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16:45-18:15

**Item 4. Enabling meaningful citizen participation to address pressing policy challenges**

[OECD Guidelines for Citizen Participation Processes](#)

Discussion Paper on Exploring New Frontiers of Citizen Participation in the Policy Cycle

Towards meaningful civil society participation at the international level

Policy Brief on Centres of Expertise for Citizen Participation

Open Government and Green Governance paper

Promoting deliberative democracy in the Basque Country

Governments cannot tackle the transitions of the 21<sup>st</sup> century without building alliances with citizens and a multitude of stakeholders, including private sector, civil society, academia. The Luxembourg Declaration [[OECD/LEGAL/0484](#)] and the subsequent [Action Plan on Enhancing Representation, Participation and Openness in Public Life](#) highlight the importance of [participatory](#) and [deliberative](#) processes as tools to reinforce democracy and support trust in public institutions over the long-term. OECD countries are making greater use of citizens' voices to build consensus at all levels of government, including the international sphere, to address the major challenges, in particular the climate and biodiversity crises.

Concretely, OECD countries are communicating with and involving both citizens and stakeholders in the green agenda through a diverse set of initiatives from more traditional such as public meetings, consultations, and roundtables, to more innovative approaches like citizen science and representative deliberative processes. For example, OECD countries like Australia, France, Spain, and the European Commission have organised deliberative assemblies to inform green policies whilst other countries like Colombia and Chile regularly consult citizens both through online and offline channels to better address the climate crisis.

Nevertheless, public institutions need to build the right conditions and provide the right resources to ensure such processes are inclusive and impactful. Formalising and institutionalising participation can highlight the economic and social implications of a green transition for all social demographics - and contribute to preserving the social contract. To support citizen participation and deliberation in OECD countries, the Secretariat has been collecting good practices and data, including at the international level, to provide actionable recommendations on how to embed and institutionalise such practices.

Delegates are invited to share good practices of citizen participation and deliberation in the green transition and offer insights on how to increase their impact building on their respective country perspectives. Finally, delegates will be invited to discuss the draft outline of a Discussion Paper on Exploring New Frontiers of Citizen Participation in the Policy Cycle currently under development.

**Action:** *For comments and discussion*

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**Evening dinner organised by the Government of Korea**

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**Thursday, 5 September 2024**

**9:30-11:00**

**Item 5. What are open government reforms achieving? Insights from the OECD Citizen Participation Barometer's Field Trial**

Measuring meaningful citizen participation – The OECD Citizen Participation Barometer  
OECD Maturity Model on Access to Information

The OECD Citizen Participation Barometer (CPB) is a key deliverable of the *Action Plan on Enhancing Representation, Participation, and Openness in Public Life* which was adopted by Ministers as part of the OECD Reinforcing Democracy Initiative (RDI). Measuring the *de facto* implementation of policies that aim to strengthen government-citizen relations, the CPB has the potential to significantly advance open government agendas worldwide. It will provide policymakers with concise, data-driven insights into participatory opportunities and the ecosystem for meaningful engagement.

In this session, the Secretariat will present updates on the ongoing development of the CPB prototype, including findings from a survey field trial among members that pilot the development. The session will be an opportunity to reflect on the lessons learned and experiences in the initial phase of the CPB's design, including on indicator selection and data collection.

Task force members are invited to share their views based on their involvement. Delegates are invited to engage in discussions on how to move the design of this assessment tool forward.

**Action:** *For comments and discussion*

**11:00-12:30**

**Item 6. Pushing the frontiers of open government: What is next?**

Taking an integrated approach to the promotion of transparency, integrity, accountability and stakeholders' participation: Towards an Open Government Strategy

Open Government Review of Morocco

[Open Government Review of Romania](#)

The findings of the report [Open Government for Stronger Democracies: A Global Assessment](#) show that an increasing number of countries have started designing and implementing holistic open government strategies, as an integrated whole of government roadmap for their national open government agendas. This session will showcase the experiences of pioneering countries that are working on open government strategies and benefit from insights from the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

Since 2015, the OECD Secretariat has encouraged and supported member and partner countries to conceive and draft national strategies to complement OGP national action plans, which remain a crucial tool for national open government agendas. In particular, the OECD has supported Argentina, Canada, Costa Rica, Brazil, Tunisia, and Morocco in their reflections to identify the model of national strategy most suitable for their objectives, has facilitated exchanges of experiences and in some cases provided valuable analysis as a basis for the national strategies.

Delegates are invited to reflect on the presentation from the OECD Secretariat and the interventions by countries that have been working on national open government strategies and to discuss how others can move forward in adopting a more holistic and strategic approach to open government reforms.

**Action:** *For comments and discussion*

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**Lunch provided by the Government of Korea**

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**14:00-15:30**

**Item 7. Protecting and promoting civic space at national level**

Practical Guide for Policymakers on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space  
Civic Space: Trends, challenges, and the way forward in Latin America and the Caribbean  
Innovative and Participatory Policymaking in Armenia

Over the past decade, countries have increasingly recognised civic space as a cornerstone of functioning democracies. When fundamental civic freedoms are protected, in line with key international and national legal frameworks protecting human rights, citizens and stakeholders such as civil society organisations (CSOs), media workers, trade unionists, and academics can engage with public institutions, express their views, participate throughout policymaking and decision-making cycles, evaluate outcomes, and play a crucial oversight role. Governments have clear national and international legal obligations on civic space protection. Moreover, countries reap many benefits from the higher levels of citizen engagement that protected civic space facilitates.

The OECD has developed a practical guide for policymakers to protect and promote civic space, based on the learnings and findings of the [OECD Report on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space](#). The guide provides for the opportunity to tailor support for public administrations in a broad range of areas and country-specific needs. Additionally, a policy paper on civic space protection in Latin America, will be published in 2024, highlighting good practices as well as identified opportunities from the region.

Delegates are invited to reflect on the ongoing work on civic space protection at the national, regional, and international level and the interventions by countries before sharing their thoughts on areas of focus in the future.

**Action:** *For comments and discussion*

**15:30-16:30**

**Item 8. Closing remarks**

The OECD Secretariat and the Chair of the Working Party will present the next steps for each area of work and provide the closing remarks of the meeting.

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*End of the meeting*

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