



Setting the Agenda for 2025

10 Policy Priorities
for *Business at OECD* (BIAC)

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About *Business at OECD* (BIAC)

Established in 1962, *Business at OECD* (BIAC) is the officially recognized institutional business stakeholder at the OECD.

We stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to economic growth, sustainable development, and societal prosperity. Through *Business at OECD*, national business and employers' federations representing over 10 million companies provide perspectives to cutting-edge OECD policy debates that shape market-based economies and impact global governance. Our expertise is enriched by the contributions of a wide range of international sector organizations.



Introduction

Setting the Agenda for 2025

Business at OECD (BIAC) is the institutional private sector stakeholder to the OECD. Based on regular consultation with our global network, this discussion document proposes 10 policy priorities, including key deliverables for our proactive engagement with the OECD and governments in 2025.

This document has been prepared as a basis for discussion with our national member organizations at our *Annual Planning Meeting* on 10 and 11 December 2024, and enriched thereafter based on feedback received. As a member-driven organization, our policy priority-setting exercise at the turn of the year provides cross-cutting strategic guidance, including for our forthcoming high-level engagements with OECD Ministers and Ambassadors.

As our *Business at OECD* Committees and Expert Groups contribute to a broad ranging OECD agenda, we note that this document is in no way meant to be comprehensive of all our activities. Further, the compiled ten priorities should not be understood as ranked in relative importance. We also underline that our policy agenda will be reflected in our increased regional outreach activities – in OECD and non-OECD economies¹ – in the context of a dynamic geopolitical setting.

We look forward to leveraging this document as a foundation for constructive dialogue with the OECD and governments, ensuring that our collective priorities reflect the evolving needs of businesses and contribute meaningfully to global policy outcomes.

¹ The OECD's accession discussions with 8 countries, as well as its regional programmes – including in South-East Asia, Latin America and Africa – provide an essential opportunity for business to spread OECD standards, good practices and policies for the governance of markets beyond the Organization's membership. We also engage in continued dialogue with OECD leadership on China-related business priorities. Working with our global network, we further promote our priorities in B7 and B20 activities.



Improve the Framework Conditions for Business Competitiveness

In 2025, the primary priority for the OECD must be to urgently reinforce the competitiveness of our market-based economies. Making up for years of rising barriers, bureaucracy and tax burdens, we need cross-cutting structural reforms to get OECD economies back on track. In this context, it must be clear that fair competition and efficient markets remain the core driver of economic integration, innovation, and investment.

With *Business at OECD's* active support, the OECD is working towards a new **Foundations for Growth** initiative to provide governments with clear, cross-cutting indicators that point towards needed structural reforms and concrete policy actions. In 2025, we will actively continue to support the finalization, launch and promotion of this flagship project, making the case for reforms across different policy areas that raise our competitiveness.

To highlight the business sentiment and point to critical areas of reform in the context of the OECD Economic Outlook, our *Business at OECD Economic Policy Survey* will be released twice a year. While inflation is slowly moderating for the OECD as a whole, diverging price and economic trends require nuanced policy recommendations.

One cross-cutting key factor for competitiveness remains excessive regulation, which imposes a high burden on businesses across the OECD. In this regard, we will contribute to the forthcoming OECD **Regulatory Policy Outlook**, which maps efforts to improve regulatory quality across OECD countries.

Pursuing the objective of better regulatory practice, we will encourage the OECD to step up its efforts and initiate a new *Business at OECD* campaign on **Regulatory Divergence in Global ESG Reporting**. This work will aim to raise awareness of the costs of international regulatory fragmentation.

To advocate for the efficient operation of markets with a minimum necessary level of intervention, we will also continue our longstanding structured engagement with competition authorities, including through our *Business at OECD Competition Publications*. Legal uncertainty, including in the application of regulation and merger control rules, must not disincentivize investments and growth, especially in rapidly changing markets.

By fostering well-functioning capital markets, advancing sustainable finance practices, and facilitating cross-border investment, economies can secure the resources needed to stay competitive in a rapidly evolving global landscape. The OECD plays a pivotal role in shaping these frameworks, helping nations **attract private sector finance** and maintain their economic edge.



Ensure a Practical Rollout of the Global Tax Deal

An increasing public debt burden must not result in fiscal policies that further weigh down private sector-led growth. Instead, the digital and green transition require tax and fiscal policies that enable the private sector to invest and innovate. In 2025, business engagement with the OECD on international tax will remain a top priority, as the Organization is at the forefront of proposals changing the international tax landscape.

In 2025, jurisdictions will be looking at initial results of new rules requiring in-scope multinationals to comply with reporting requirements associated with **global minimum tax rules (Pillar Two)**. The formal implementation of these rules requires businesses to adapt their internal processes and create additional financial reporting and audit disclosure requirements across multiple jurisdictions. As the official implementation process continues, practical guidance and clarity are necessary to enable business to fulfill reporting and compliance requirements while accounting for resource constraints.

We will also continue to engage with the OECD to ensure that the implementation process includes clarity and consistency for businesses across jurisdictions. This includes collaborating on additional guidance and providing key observations on the results of the ongoing implementation process, including the need for permanent safe harbors. This will be necessary as jurisdictions move closer towards final adoption of the **proposal to reallocate profits (Pillar One)** of large multinationals to market jurisdictions.

In this context, improving **tax certainty** across international tax issues, including the two pillars addressed by the OECD, will continue to be a top priority. Enhancing trust between taxpayers and tax administrations, and a commitment to action for improved dispute prevention and resolution, will reduce tax risk for both governments and business as well as to enhance businesses confidence to invest.

As jurisdictions begin to adopt a multitude of new regulations it will be necessary to increase capacity to respond to inquiries from business while simultaneously tracking revenue and enhancing collection systems. As we have been actively engaging with the OECD throughout the course of the design process, we will contribute to **capacity building**, including for developing countries.



Champion Open Markets for International Trade and Investment

Geopolitical tensions and the growing trend of de-globalization pose serious risks to the progress made through multilateralism. As economic nationalism, state interventionism and protectionist policies are on the rise, the OECD must become a more effective advocate for the benefits of open, free, fair trade and investment. As a 'like-minded' community committed to open markets, the OECD should focus again on what our businesses need, rather than what they should be required to do.

On trade policy, the OECD and governments must walk-the-talk of their joint commitment to open markets and negotiate and ratify trade agreements in a timely manner. To this end, our **Trade Priorities Paper** will provide thought leadership for the OECD to reinforce the foundations of open markets, support rules-based multilateral trade, advance digital trade, and level the playing field.

Inclusive and sustainable supply chains are another priority for the OECD and business alike. In this regard, we will also finalize our comprehensive **Recommendations for OECD Work on Trade and the Environment**, and support members to promote and facilitate circular economy trade.

As governments around the world have been providing extraordinary amounts of support to their economies, the **Global Forum on Trade 2025** should provide a critical opportunity for *Business at OECD* to engage in a dialogue on the benefits of the level playing field. Our continued engagement in OECD work on export credits remains also critical in this regard.

As the OECD helps to map and understand the market vulnerabilities created by **illicit trade**, *Business at OECD* will continue to support these efforts. This includes promoting transparency in free trade zones, as well as developing voluntary anti-counterfeiting best practices for online marketplaces.

Business at OECD will also actively engage with the OECD on its strategy to attract **More, Better and Safer Investment**. We will continue to advocate for our proactive investment agenda that helps leverage the enormous amounts of investment required for achieving more sustainable, secure, digital, and resilient economies. In particular, we will underline that investment policy frameworks need to provide investors with sufficient legal certainty and stability.



Engage Business to Strengthen **Economic Resilience and Security**

In many countries, reinforced national security measures and inward-looking government agendas intend to reduce dependencies and protect critical industries. However, when national security is invoked as the reason for action, the private sector often has no voice in government deliberations. This carries the risk of unnecessary restrictions and that market-based economic principles are abandoned in selected sectors. It must be clear that resilient, diversified, interconnected supply chains improve security while economic decoupling is counterproductive.

In 2025, *Business at OECD* will continue to help define, identify, and reduce excessive unilateral dependencies in selected sectors. As the **OECD Critical Supply Chains Forum** has been at the forefront of discussing the security of supply - convening initiatives on the car industry, semiconductors, food and agriculture, as well as medical sectors - we will provide on-the-ground insights of businesses that operate global supply chains.

As OECD Ministers committed in 2024 to work together to secure sustainable, reliable and trustworthy sources for strategic inputs, we will seek close engagement in the OECD's new **Critical Minerals Initiative**.

While safeguarding security interests by protecting sensitive technologies and capacities is a legitimate concern, the proliferation of investment screening mechanisms, both inbound and outbound, is alarming. In 2025, we will continue to encourage the OECD to review its **Recommendation on Guidelines for Recipient Country Investment Policies relating to National Security** to ensure that screening mechanisms are based on a clear, predictable, and focused definition of national security risks, and are better coordinated so that businesses do not face duplicative or contradictory demands.



Advance Coherent Digital Policy for Trustworthy AI and Data Governance

The rapid development and adoption of new technologies, including generative AI, are transforming business and how we conduct our activities. Fostering a favorable and trustworthy environment for innovation will generate opportunities for society as a whole. In 2025, we will continue working with the OECD to develop coherent digital policy frameworks and guidance, enabling innovation and economic growth at an international scale.

To ensure the digitalization of the economy benefits all, the OECD should continue fostering international policy frameworks that encourage innovation while minimizing risks. Engaging with stakeholders is the only way to achieve this goal. Going forward, it will be important for the OECD to strengthen its collaboration with businesses in implementing the **Framework for Anticipatory Governance of Emerging Technologies**, including sharing knowledge on strategic intelligence tools and approaches to assess emerging technologies and enable anticipatory governance.

Business at OECD is focused on improving the effective articulation and implementation of the **OECD AI Principles**. The aim is to ensure consistent policy approaches to AI across various OECD Committees addressing issues such as education, employment, health, anticorruption, responsible business conduct, and taxation.

As trusted cross-border data flows are essential to international business across sectors, we need the OECD to advance consistent and coherent digital policy that supports data-driven innovation, productivity, and competitiveness. In 2025, we will continue to actively contribute to the OECD community for **Data Free Flow with Trust**, ensuring coherent policies for trusted data technologies and flows.

In this context, a key priority will also be to expand countries' adherence to the OECD Declaration on **Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities**. This is the first intergovernmental agreement on common approaches to safeguard privacy and other human freedoms when accessing personal data for national security and law enforcement purposes.



Promote Effective Solutions for Labor and Skills Shortages

Skills and labor shortages are among the most pressing problems entrepreneurs and businesses currently face on-the-ground, and demographic change stands to worsen the situation. In 2025, we will redouble our efforts to encourage the OECD to provide tangible recommendations that tackle the “double skills gap” - a quantitative lack of skilled employees and qualitative skills mismatches. A continued focus will remain on skills development in the context of the digital and green transition.

To better support skills systems and work-based learning, we will continue to engage in the **OECD International Vocational Education and Training (VET) Assessment** project. Inspired by PISA, this first internationally standardized assessment of initial VET, if correctly designed, should raise the visibility and attractiveness of VET. We will also continue to advocate for a skills-first approach to hiring, which better recognizes non-traditional skills and diverse pathways into the labor market.

We will also work closely with the OECD to help countries identify policies that can help employers, workers and societies at large seize the benefits of AI in the labor market while also addressing its risks. As the OECD works to define an Action Plan and potential **Recommendation on Trustworthy Use of AI in the Labour Market**, *Business at OECD* experts will provide insights on how AI can create new employment opportunities, complement workers and improve their productivity, and improve management and job quality.

Our cross-committee project on **Forging Green Talent** will continue to put a spotlight on business needs for skills development in the context of the green transition. In collaboration with the International Organisation of Employers (IOE), we will highlight business case-studies and underline our policy recommendations related to a *just transition*.

Business at OECD will also represent the voice of business and employers in the **OECD Social Policy Ministerial** taking place in February 2025. A sound policy framework for economic growth is an essential prerequisite for the private sector to make its full contribution to creating new jobs, and thereby to funding social welfare protection in the present and future. In this regard, it is critical to ensure the resilience of social protection systems, while not raising the already high social contribution burden on employers in many OECD countries.



Encourage an Effective and Efficient Green Transition

Addressing environmental challenges – including on climate change, biodiversity loss, and plastics pollution – will require significant business investment in environmentally sustainable solutions over the next decades. For this, the green transition must become a market opportunity, rather than an expensive problem. In 2025, the OECD needs to promote environmental policies that are rational, and not ideologically driven. Rather than picking winners, technology-neutral policies are needed. The key to success is closer public-private engagement.

In the transition to net-zero, business needs clear climate frameworks - especially for hard-to-abate emissions sectors. As the next round of NDCs under the Paris Agreement is due in 2025, we will engage with governments on technical aspects of the UNFCCC negotiations through the **OECD-IEA Climate Change Expert Group Global Forum**.

Addressing the challenges related to carbon intensity metrics, *Business at OECD* will continue to actively contribute to the OECD's flagship **Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Action (IFCMA)**. This seeks a globally more coherent approach to climate mitigation, which is critical to avoid trade and investment tensions as countries apply carbon border measures.

As the OECD is revising several long-standing environment standards, the Organization will be working on a new, consolidated **OECD Recommendation on Sustainable Transport**. *Business at OECD* is actively engaging in this debate to mainstream technology-neutrality and promote best practice policies that enable business innovation.

To enable circular economy trade facilitation, we will also continue to encourage the OECD and governments to seek ways to more effectively implement the legally-binding **OECD Decision on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Wastes for Recovery Operations**.

The OECD's recently proposed update of the **Polluter Pays Principle** will be a top priority going forward. OECD considerations to cover environmental liability irrespective of whether pollution is within legal limits or accidental warrants significant business attention.

To avoid duplicative data requirements for chemicals testing and assessment, the **OECD Environment, Health, and Safety Program** generates cost savings of over 309 million Euros annually for governments and business. We will continue to provide an institutional framework to leverage the private sector's expertise in these debates.



Foster the Efficient Development of Infrastructure and Energy

While energy and infrastructure are the backbone of our economies, many OECD countries have been struggling with chronic underinvestment in their aging systems for decades. At the same time, the green and digital transition require much more focus to safeguard our long-term competitiveness. From realistic strategic planning, over speeding up regulatory procedures, to promoting public-private partnerships: We encourage the OECD to step up its efforts to provide whole-of-government advice to help our economies decisively move forward.

In line with cross-cutting *Business at OECD* calls, the OECD is scaling up a horizontally integrated work program on infrastructure. Following up on the recently launched **OECD Infrastructure Forum**, this high-level initiative will identify good practices and policy advice, with potential deliverables at the forthcoming Ministerial Council meeting.

In this context, the OECD has among others proposed to revise its **Principles for Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure**. Given growing pressure on government budgets, *Business at OECD* will actively engage to foster public-private collaboration for infrastructure investment projects, including transport, water and power supply or telecommunications.

As OECD work on a **Recommendation on the Clean Energy Transition** will continue in 2025, a holistic standard should effectively accelerate the roll out of sustainable energy projects, promote diverse energy infrastructures and technologies, and foster energy efficiency. Therefore, we will actively engage to ensure the outcome is realistic, balanced, technology-neutral, and supportive of business leadership.

Given the global consensus to phase down unabated coal power, some OECD countries are pressing for far-reaching OECD **Guidance for Credible Coal Policies by Financial Institutions**. In this context, we will actively engage financial institutions and the real economy to ensure climate action goes hand-in-hand with secure, affordable energy.

Realistic, updated, practical **scenarios for the energy transition** are the basis for reasonable policy making. As geopolitical, policy and regulatory energy uncertainties remain high, we will continue to facilitate outreach and dialogue with OECD as well as the IEA to ensure scenarios for the climate and energy transition reflect the on-the-ground realities of the OECD business community.



Build Resilience for Health and Food Systems

As health and food systems underpin our global economy, adequate investment is key contribute to strengthening global economic resilience as a whole. To achieve this, we must deliver transformational solutions that make health and food systems more productive and efficient, including through digitization. In 2025, the OECD should promote public-private and cross-ministerial cooperations in both the health and food sectors, not only during times of crisis but consistently.

Given the multiple threats to our health and food systems, in 2025 OECD must foster greater international dialogue and cross-sectoral collaboration on health, both within and between ministries. In this context, throughout 2025, our **Stronger Together Campaign** will actively promote health as an economic imperative, demonstrating how investing in resilient health systems contributes to long-term economic growth and stability.

By engaging key stakeholders globally, through our **Annual Health Forum and Regional Roundtables**, we will gather insights from global discussions, member priorities, and ongoing OECD work to strengthen partnerships, ensuring that this collaboration builds resilient health systems that support both economic resilience and productivity.

In 2025, we will continue to prioritize enhancing food systems resilience by promoting sustainable food practices through our **Peace for Food Campaign**, which aims to foster stability and cooperation in global food production.

We will also advance innovation and digitalization in agriculture via our **Field of the Future Campaign**, focusing on cutting-edge technologies and practices that enhance efficiency and sustainability.

Additionally, we will strengthen global connections through events such as our **Forum on Agriculture and China**, facilitating dialogue and collaboration among stakeholders to ensure a more resilient and integrated food system worldwide.



Shape Realistic Frameworks for Good Corporate Governance

Sound corporate governance frameworks are essential for business success: Transparent, responsible, and accountable processes and practices increase competitiveness as well as business performance and reputation. In 2025, we will continue our close engagement with the OECD to ensure its flagship standards provide useful guidance, meet business realities and can be effectively implemented - in OECD countries and beyond.

We will work with the OECD to efficiently disseminate and implement the revised **G20/OECD Corporate Governance Principles**, championing good corporate governance for global sustainable economic growth and urging new OECD thematic works and complementary guidance to bolster the Principles.

Following the adoption of the revised **OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct**, we will keep advocating for greater policy coherence to ensure that OECD initiatives are more aligned with business realities and are practically applicable. Achieving this will also require deeper engagement with the OECD to ensure that the challenges businesses face in the context of responsible business conduct are visible and well understood.

In 2025, we will also actively contribute to the development of **OECD Principles on Responsible Corporate Lobbying and Political Engagement**. These should balance shared responsibilities between the private and public sectors, avoid unrealistic and overly broad disclosure requirements, and ensure alignment with applicable legal frameworks.

The *OECD Anti-Bribery Convention* and its related instruments have made significant contributions to combating international corruption—both in adhering countries and beyond. In 2025, our Anti-Corruption Committee will further step up its activities to foster its **Zero-Corruption Campaign** and will among others focus on how AI can be leveraged to combat corruption.







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