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**OECD Africa**  
Governance Platform

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# Launch of the OECD Africa Governance Platform

**SUMMARY NOTE**  
21-22 October 2024  
Milan, Italy

## Launch of the OECD Africa Governance Platform

### Context and objectives

The OECD Africa Governance Platform was launched on 22 October 2024 during the OECD **Global Forum on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy** in Milan, Italy. The launch event brought together more than 80 participants from 19 OECD Member and non-Member countries and from 16 regional/international organisations and civil society organisations. They discussed priorities and perspectives on public governance in Africa, while exploring the potential role of the OECD Africa Governance Platform in providing opportunities for peer-learning, policy dialogue and evidence-collection in support of these priorities (see the list of participants in Annex I and the agenda in Annex II). The event, opened by OECD Deputy Secretary-General Mary-Beth Goodman, featured interventions of high-level speakers from OECD Members and African Partners.



Family picture of participants, peers and OECD Secretariat in Milan, Italy, 22 October 2024

The launch event was preceded, on 21 October, by a closed-door briefing meeting which gave the opportunity to African Partners and OECD Members to discuss proposed strategic objectives, methods, approaches and next steps for the OECD Africa Governance Platform, while also discussing its value-added and complementarity with ongoing initiatives.

## Key take-aways

### I) Country and institutional priorities

The launch of the OECD Africa Governance Platform underlined the shared interest in strengthening collaboration in the field of public governance between OECD Members and African Partners. It allowed for an exchange of perspectives and strategic priorities among participants (see Annex I) that will help guide future action.

Below are key public governance priorities shared by participants over the course of the two days, as well as insights on how the OECD Africa Governance Platform can support peer-learning initiatives:

#### (i) Governance and public administration reform

- **Enhancing** arrangements and capacities to modernise the public administration and ensure centres of government can effectively co-ordinate strategic government action on high-level priorities.
- **Strengthening** the rule of law and reforming the public administration to promote sustainable and inclusive prosperity.
- **Improving** integrity, transparency, openness and accountability in public administration and service delivery.
- **Better** management of public financial and human resources, including through regulations and standards.
- **Reinforcing** digital government for better public management and for effective digital public service.
- **Enhancing** the capacities of local authorities and public officials to deliver quality public services.

#### (ii) Regional and economic collaboration

- **Building a shared commitment** to regional cooperation and the need for coordinated action and policy coherence to tackle climate challenges across Africa.
- **Enhancing regional collaboration** on infrastructure projects and strengthening public procurement capabilities for economic development.
- **Strengthening** collaboration between public and private sectors to address public governance challenges, while also enhancing the regulatory environment, economic governance, and responsible business conduct.

#### (iii) Inclusive and participatory governance

- **Building** trust-based relationships between governments, citizens and civil society to implement governance reforms, enhance citizen participation and ensure accountability.
- **Promoting** gender equality and empowering young people, building, and benefitting from their human capital and enabling their full participation in public and political life.
- **Raising** young people's awareness of democratic values to strengthen the resilience of democratic processes.

## II) Proposed approaches discussed for the OECD Africa Governance Platform

### (i) Promoting policy dialogue, and partnerships

- **Facilitating North-South policy dialogue and peer-learning** for knowledge sharing and collaboration, while also **enabling South-South exchanges** of best practices on selected public governance priorities, including between African and MENA Partners, based on trusted relationships.
- **Fostering strategic partnerships** across a wide range of stakeholders to improve governance through whole-of-state and whole-of-society approaches, notably including executive government authorities, legislative branches, local authorities, civil society organisations and private sector.
- **Building** on the 20-year experience of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and the 10-year experience of the OECD Training Centre on Public Governance. policy dialogue and peer learning

### (ii) Strengthening evidence-based analysis and institutional capacity

- **Strengthening evidence-based analysis** for policymaking for more effective governance through regional and country-specific data collection, knowledge-generation, and dissemination.
- **Enabling** cross-border and regional approaches to promote policy coherence and shared policy standards to address common governance challenges.

### (iii) Ensuring complementarity, and alignment with national priorities

- **Supporting countries' reform efforts** and development of new policies and regulatory frameworks, while also providing **opportunities for capacity-building** to strengthen institutional capabilities in national and local-level institutions.
- **Ensuring complementarity of the OECD Africa Governance Platform with ongoing initiatives** of OECD Members, African Partners, and regional/international organisations such as the AU, in areas of public governance.

## Next Steps

Participants strongly supported the objectives and approaches of the OECD Africa Governance Platform to enable peer-learning, support reform efforts and boost collaboration across Africa. This section highlights key next steps:

1. A joint policy dialogue event organised by the OECD Training Centre on Public Governance and the ACBF on advancing inclusive, digital, and green public administration reforms will be taking place in March, in Ghana, bringing together public servants from Africa, MENA, and OECD countries to share tools and best practices in these areas.
2. The OECD AGP Advisory Board will be established bringing representatives from African countries, OECD Members, regional organizations, and civil society to provide strategic direction and help in the prioritization of OECD AGP related activities. The OECD Secretariat will facilitate and coordinate the first meeting in 2025.

3. The OECD will proceed with outreach missions to the region (including to Nigeria, Ghana, Senegal, Ivory Coast and Ethiopia) in a sequenced approach, with the aim of identifying potential priority governance reform areas that could be supported through the OECD AGP also informed by previous discussions. African Partner countries are invited to reach out to the OECD Secretariat in case of interest.
4. The OECD will continue to engage bilaterally with OECD Members and international partners, to mobilise the required resources to effectively deliver on OECD AGP activities.
5. Participants shared their perspectives on complementarity between the OECD AGP and other existing governance initiatives, and how this could be enhanced. All views are being taken into account and will be reflected in any changes adopted by the Platform.

## Annex I: List of Participants

### 1/ Countries

Country	Full name	Ministry / Institution	Role	Attendance
Belgium	Ms. Sichelkow Mia	Belgian Development Agency	Project Manager	In-person
Cape Verde	Mr. José Eduardo Garcia	National Statistics Institute of Cape Verde	Grupo Praia in Governance Statistic	In-person
Cape Verde	Ms. Liliana Ernestina Bettencourt Pinto Mascarenhas Monteiro	PRAIA Group on Governance Statistics, National Statistics Institute of Cape Verde	Sub-Coordinator of the Secretariat of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics	In-person
Denmark	Ms. Maria Møller Kursch	Agency for Public Finance and Management	International Advisor	In-person
Denmark	Ms. Maria Schack Vindum	Agency for Public Finance and Management	Director General	In-person
Denmark	Ms. Idil Nor	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Head of Section / Africa, Development Policy & Financing	Virtual
Egypt	Dr. Sherifa Sherif	National Institute for Governance and Sustainable Development of Egypt	Deputy Commissioner	In-person
Egypt	Mr. Elsayed Torky	Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI)	ILO Governing Body Board Member; Senior Advisor to the FEI	Virtual
Finland	Ms. Katju Holkeri	Ministry of Finance of Finland	Acting Director General, Public Governance Department	In-person
France	Ms. Anis Malouche	Directorate-General for Administration and the Civil Service (DGAFP)	Head of international Projects	Virtual
France	Ms. Marie Bjornson-Langen	French Development Agency	Deputy Executive Director for Sustainable Development Solutions	In person
France	Ms. Mayara Soares Faria	Interministerial Directorate for Public Transformation (DITP)	PGC Delegate/Open Government & International Relations Advisor	In-person
Germany	Ms. Marie-Alexandra Kurth	German Corporation for International Cooperation	Team Leader, Team Europe Democracy Secretariat	In- person
Germany	Ms. Claudia Azcuy Becquer	German Corporation for International Cooperation	Planning Officer, Democracy, Digital Governance, Urban Development	In- person
Ghana	Pr. Victor Agyeman	Public Services Commission of Ghana	Chairman of the Public Services Commission	In- person
Indonesia	Mr. Andi Rahadian	Ministry of State Apparatus Utilization and Bureaucratic Reform	Deputy Assistant for Administrative Reform	In-person
Indonesia	Mr. Cahyono Tri Birowo	Ministry of State Apparatus Utilization and Bureaucratic Reform	Deputy Assistant for Digital Government	In-person

Indonesia	Ms. Dini Maghfirra	Ministry of State Apparatus Utilization and Bureaucratic Reform	Policy Analyst	In-person
Indonesia	Mr. Rizqy Vebry Wibowo	Ministry of State Apparatus Utilization and Bureaucratic Reform	Data and Information Staff	In-person
Italy	Mr. Raffaella Campanati	Permanent Delegation of Italy to the OECD	Counsellor	In-person
Italy	Mr. Raffaele Cattaneo	Lombardy Region	Undersecretary for International and European Relations	In-person
Italy	Mr. Guiseppe Mistretta	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy	Principal Director for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa	In- person
Italy	Mr. Fabio Ballerini	Office of the Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Italy	Africa Counsellor	In- person
Italy	Mr. Francesco Leone	Prime Minister's Office of Italy	Principal Director for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa	In- person
Italy	Alessandro Bellantoni	Open Government Partnership, OECD	Director for Policy and Partnerships, OECD	In-person
Italy	Mr. Biagio Di Terlizi	International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies	Deputy Director at CIHEAM Bari and Head of Planning and Cooperation Office	In person
Italy	Clara Bottarini	Inrete - Institutional Relations and Communication	Account Executive	Virtual
Italy	Clothilde Cugnart	AITI - Italian Association of Translators and Interpreters	Conference interpreter and translator - University lecturer in interpreting and translation	Virtual
Italy	Simone Pelizonni	Freelance	English language teacher, New English Teaching (Freelance)	Virtual
Jordan	H.E. Marwan Al Refai	Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation of Jordan	Secretary General	In- person
Mauritania	H.E. Mohamed Ould Soueidatt	Government of Mauritania	Minister of Public Service and Labor	In- person
Mauritania	Mr. Dahi Mohamed Mahmoud	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Ambassador to the Italian Republic	In-person
Morocco	Mr. Ikram Himmi	Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform	Director of Organization of the Administration	In-person
Netherlands	Ms. Marilette Van As	Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations	International Coordinator, DG Digitalisation and Public Administration	In- person
Nigeria	Mr. Dapo Oyewole	Presidency of Nigeria	Senior Special Assistant to the President on International Cooperation	In- person
South Africa	H.E. Pinky Sharon Kekana	Ministry of Public Service and administration	Deputy Minister for the Public Service and Administration	In- person
South Africa	Ms. Zandile Ngubeni	Ministry for the Public Service and Administration	Parliamentary Liaison Officer	In-person
South Africa,	Mr Willie Vukela	Government Services Access and Improvement	Deputy Director-General	In-person
Spain	Ms. Carmen Cabanillas Serrano	Ministry for Digital Transformation and Public Service	General Director of Public Governance	In-person

Spain	Mr. Lázaro Tuñón Sastre	Subdirector General de Gobierno Abierto, PGC CC Delegate	Assistant Deputy Director for Open Government in the Ministry of Finance and Civil Service	In-person
Switzerland	Mr. Nicolas Descoudres	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs	Deputy Permanent Representative to the OECD and PGC Delegate	In-person
Switzerland	Mr. Hanspeter Wyss	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs/ Swiss Agency for Development and Co-operation, Switzerland	Thematic Advisor on Governance	In-person
Tunisia	Mr. Slim Ben Jrad	Government of Tunisia	Public Services Advisor and General Director of Governance and Prevention of Corruption	In-person
Tunisia	Mr. Youssef MCHICH	Ministry of Youth and Sports, Tunisia	Director of Youth Institutions at the General Directorate of Youth	In-person
Turkey	Mr. Cemzi Onat	Presidency of Turkey	Presidency of Strategy and Budget Expert	In-person
United Kingdom	Mr. Mirza Jahani	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK Government	Development Director for Central Asia at FCDO	Virtual
United Kingdom	Sarah Karim	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, UK Government	Governance Adviser United Kingdom	Virtual
United States of America	Mr. Dustin Brown	OECD Public Governance Committee	Chair of the Public Governance Committee and Chief of Staff, Social Security Administration, United States	In-person
United States of America	Ms. Shannon Green	Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance	Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance	In-person
United States of America	Mr. David Hoehner	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)	Local Governance Advisor at USAID	In-person

## 2/ Organisations

Organisations	Full Name	Role	Attendance
Accountability-Lab	Mr. Blair Glencorse	Co-CEO	In-person
ADISI Cameroon	Mr. Paul-Joel Kamtchang	Executive Secretary	In-person
African Capacity Building (ACBF)	Mr. Mamadou Biteye	Executive Director	In-person
African Capacity Building (ACBF)	Mr. Rodolphe Bance	Executive Director, Head of Economic and Social Governance, Head of ACBF Nairobi Office	In-person
African Capacity Building (ACBF)	Mr. Konsta Heikkilä	Chief Partnership Adviser, African Finnish Partnerships on Taxation Capacity in Africa	In-person
African Development Bank Group (AfDB)	Ms. Mariame KRAUER-DIABY	Anti-Corruption Governance Expert	Virtual
African Union Commission (AU)	H.E. Ambassador Calixte Aristide	Head of Democracy, Election and Constitutionalism	In-person
Alliant International University	Mr. Hatem Ghujil	Ph.D Leadership at CSML Alliant	Virtual
Al Kawakibi Democracy Transition Center	Mr. Amine Ghali	Director	In-person
Civic Alliance Latvia,	Ms. Inese Purina,	Director of EEA/Norway Grants programmes	In-person

AUDA-NEPAD	Mr. Symerre Grey Johnson	Director Human Capital and Institutional Development	In-person
AUDA-NEPAD	Ms. Daphine Muzawazi	Institutional Development Unit, Head	In-person
BUSINESS Africa	Mr. Lionel Omondi	Communications and PR Expert; Coordinator	Virtual
CADRE21	Annie Polycarpe Loubaki	Educational Services Department	Virtual
East African Community (EAC)	H.E Veronica Nduva	Secretary General	In-Person
ETHICORE	Mr. Abdul Waheed Patel	CEO	In-person
ETHICORE	Ms. Wisahl Jappie	Managing Director	In-person
European Commission (EUC)	Ms. Simona Gallotta	DG INTPA, Unit G1 Gender Equality, Human Rights and Democratic Governance	In- person
European Commission (EUC)	Mr. Domenico Rosa	Head of Unit Strategic Partnerships with Africa and OACPS	In-person
European Centre for Electoral Support	Mr. Jacopo Ardito	Senior Project & Communication Officer	In-person
European Centre for Electoral Support	Ms. Giulia Sostero	Middle East and Africa Coordinator	In-person
European External Action Service (EEAS)	Ms. Priscus Godonou	International Masters Erasmus Mundus in Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies	Virtual
International Society for Performance Improvement (ISPI)	Lucia Raggazzi	Africa Programme Research Fellow	In-person
OECD	Ms. Mary Beth Goodman	Deputy Secretary General	In-person
OECD	Ms. Elsa Pilichowski	Director, Public Governance Directorate	In- person
OECD	Ms. Gillian Dorner	Deputy Director, Public Governance Directorate	In- person
OECD	Janos Bertok	Deputy Director, Public Governance Directorate	In-person
OECD	Martin Forst	Head of Governance Reviews and Partnerships Division	In- person
OECD Training Centre on Public Governance	Massimo Gaiani	Executive Director	In- person
OECD	Ms. Tonaina Ngororano	Policy Analyst and Project Manager	In- person
Taweza East Africa	Mr. Aidan Eyakuze (TBC)	Executive Director	In-person
University of Ottawa	Marie-Eve Desrosiers	Chair of Francophonie Research on Aspirations and Political Movements in Francophone Africa	In-person
University of Ottawa	Nic Cheeseman	Professor, Graduate School in Public and International Affairs	In-person
Westminster Foundation for Democracy	Anthony Smith	Chief Executive	In-person

## Annex II

## Agenda

**22 October 2024, 8:00-9:00**  
**Sala Biagi, Palazzo Lombardia, Milan, Italy**

*Master of Ceremony: Ms. Tonaina Ngororano, Policy Analyst and Project Manager, OECD*

Time	Agenda item
8:00 – 8:10	<p><b>Opening remarks featuring OECD report “Governing for Sustainable Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa”</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Mary Beth Goodman</b>, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD</li> </ul>

**Strengthening public governance for inclusive and sustainable prosperity in Africa: high-level launch of the OECD Africa Governance Platform**

This session will launch the OECD Africa Governance Platform and gather perspectives on global strategic public governance priorities, informing its objectives and orientations.

8:10 – 8:50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>H.E. Mohamed Ould Soueidatt</b>, Minister of Public Service and Labor, Mauritania</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Veronica M. Nduva</b>, Secretary General, East African Community</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Amb. Calixte Aristide</b>, Head of Democracy, Election and Constitutionalism, African Union Commission</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Shannon Green</b>, Assistant to the Administrator of the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Pinky Sharon Kekana</b>, Deputy Minister for the Public Service and Administration, South Africa</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Giuseppe Mistretta</b>, Principal Director for the Countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Italy</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Mamadou Biteye</b>, Executive Director, African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF)</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Dapo Oyewole</b>, Senior Special Assistant to the President on International Cooperation, Presidency, Nigeria</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Victor Agyeman</b>, Chairman, Public Services Commission, Ghana</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Symerre Grey-Johnson</b>, Director for Human Capital, Institutional and Social Development, AUDA-NEPAD</li> </ul>
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*Roundtable discussion*

**Closing remarks**

8:50–9:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amb. Massimo Gaiani</b>, Executive Director, OECD Training Centre on Public Governance</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Gillian Dorner</b>, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance Directorate</li> </ul>
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