

Virtual Ministerial Summit on Governance

GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY and Citizen Trust

in Latin America and the Caribbean

8-10 December



OECD Latin America & the Caribbean
Regional Programme

BACKGROUND

The OECD Latin America and the Caribbean Regional Programme's Second Ministerial Summit on strengthening institutions and governance will be held virtually on 8,9,10 December 2021. The last Ministerial Summit, held in Peru in 2018, took place a few months after the 8th Summit of the Americas, during which countries in the Americas adopted an ambitious "Lima Commitment". At the OECD Ministerial, participant countries recognized the need to go "from commitments to action" through a comprehensive integrity and anti-corruption strategy. The Action Plan proposed at the time has helped some countries in the region advance such an agenda and still provides a relevant tool in the current context, where governance challenges have been further compounded by a sanitary, economic and social crisis.

Enhancing trust has been even more critical during the COVID-19 pandemic, in a context of high uncertainty where government action has been key to cushioning the impact of the crisis on lives and livelihoods. Likewise, public trust will be essential to advance a reform agenda for recovery, as this will require solid, widespread consensus across all actors of society, as highlighted by the Latin American Economic Outlook 2021. The COVID-19 crisis has underscored the importance of having comprehensive integrity frameworks in place to tackle corruption risks, which were exacerbated in the context of emergency responses. In many instances, governments in the region have approved public procurement and economic support packages through simplified and accelerated procedures, which can create challenges in relation to the necessary transparency and integrity safeguards. In this context, it is important that LAC countries adopt solid mechanisms that enable greater integrity, transparency and accountability in the use of large-scale financial and material resources to both face the crisis and assist during the recovery phase. It is also important that corruption instances are effectively addressed, including by strengthening the capacity of LAC authorities to detect and investigate such instances.

Citizens' trust in public institutions and the State has eroded over recent years – largely due to the mismanagement of financial resources, lack of fairness, openness and numerous corruption scandals – to the detriment of achievements in the fight against poverty, inequality and other areas. Trust is also one of the most important foundations upon which legitimacy and sustainability of a democratic system are built. Overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will require bold and ambitious reform agendas, which enable a strong, inclusive, resilient and green recovery. As vaccine rates rise and enable a return to higher levels of economic activity, comprehensive policies to strengthen integrity and openness will be preconditions to rebuilding trust in institutions, founding a renewed social pact, and delivering on ambitious economic and social protection reforms. Institutions that are responsive to the needs of everyone, reliable in anticipating change, that act with integrity, serve the public fairly, and listen to citizens, are also essential for regaining trust¹. Similarly, to the COVID pandemic, corruption knows no borders. Countering corruption, enhancing transparency, and rebuilding public trust across the LAC region and beyond can only be achieved through strengthened international co-operation.

Due to the sanitary situation, this OECD LACRP Ministerial Summit will be hosted virtually by El Salvador. As was the case in 2018, it aims to reinforce and support countries across the region in delivering on different political commitments to improved integrity, notably the Special Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations on Anti-Corruption and the upcoming 9th Summit of the Americas. In preparation for the Second Ministerial, the OECD together with the host country and other partners, organised three innovative webinars to address key topics including:

- Leveraging information technologies to enhance transparency, integrity and public trust
- Enhancing good governance in public procurement and large infrastructure projects, and strengthening much-needed health systems;
- Rebuilding trust in stakeholders such as the private sector, civil society and international partners – all important partners in ensuring that integrity is the foundation on which recovery and trust are built.

In addition, many of the Regional Policy Networks involved in related work held meetings over past months to advance different policy aspects that will contribute to a strengthened and comprehensive governance agenda. The Ministerial Summit to be held on 8,9,10 December 2021 will bring all of these elements together and seeks to provide countries with the policies and tools they need to make tangible progress in rebuilding trust and driving an sustainable and inclusive recovery.

¹ Key data on trust drivers amenable to policy change will be collected in the OECD Trust Survey, which will be applied for the first time in 20 OECD countries in October 2021.

MINISTERIAL SUMMIT ON GOVERNANCE

Government Integrity and Citizen Trust in Latin America & the Caribbean

8-9-10 December 2021

Public session

Sessions will be transmitted as webinar via Zoom

Opening – Wednesday, 8 December

8h–8h30 CST

Opening: Integrity and Citizen Trust

15h–15h30 CET

- ▶ **Mathias Cormann**, OECD Secretary General
- ▶ **Wagner de Campos Rosario**, Head Minister of the Office of the Comptroller General (CGU)
- ▶ **Felix Ulloa**, Vice-President of El Salvador

Effective strategies for fostering integrity and promoting citizen trust in the aftermath of COVID-19

Fostering integrity and promoting citizen trust requires a tailor-made approach drawing upon digital government tools and public data, as well as on cooperation with the private sector, civil society and international partners. As LAC countries recover from the COVID-19 crisis, the good governance of large infrastructure projects will be key to underpin citizens' trust in their governments. This session will discuss the experience of Latin American countries in the implementation of integrity strategies, promotion of citizen trust in the aftermath of COVID-19 and the co-ordination needed across different policy domains to achieve trustworthy governments.

8h30–10h30 CST

15h30–17h30 CET

- ▶ **Moderation: Elsa Pilichowski**, OECD Director of Public Governance

Panellists:

- ▶ **Felix Crous**, Head of Anti-Corruption Office, Argentina
- ▶ **Beatriz Londoño**, Secretary of Transparency, Colombia
- ▶ **David Colmenares**, Federal Supreme Auditor, Mexico
- ▶ **Anne McKinney**, Vice-President of the Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America and the Caribbean
- ▶ **Carlos Hernández**, Executive Director of Asociación para una Sociedad más Justa

MINISTERIAL SUMMIT ON GOVERNANCE

Government Integrity and Citizen Trust in Latin America & the Caribbean

Ministerial sessions

Participation in the Ministerial session is limited to invited authorities and international organisations.

Ministerial Session 1: Thursday, 9 December

Government integrity: Bringing the pieces together and closing gaps

Governance, integrity and trust cannot be isolated from other policy areas. Thus, as governments seek to respond to the COVID pandemic, they must not pause their efforts to guarantee that integrity plays an integral role in all of their policy responses. The 2018 OECD-LAC Action Plan offered pathways for the design of a comprehensive integrity and anti-corruption agenda that complements LAC countries' existing efforts. Some of these pathways have become particularly relevant during the COVID crisis. For this reason, during 2021 the LACRP preparatory webinars examined key topics that merit close attention as governments seek to regain citizen trust in the complex context of dealing with the pandemic: the opportunity of using digital government tools and data, infrastructure and public procurement, and the involvement of private sector, civil society and international cooperation. This session will gather the main inputs and take-always from the three preparatory webinars as well as other meetings linked to the integrity-trust nexus of this Ministerial. It will discuss key current priorities, highlight remaining gaps, and seek deliver policy recommendations moving forward.

8h00–9h30 CST

15h00-16h30 CET

Moderator: Andreas Schaal, OECD Director for Global Relations

Report from the preparatory webinars: Jorge Miguel Kattán, Secretary of Trade and Investments of El Salvador

Lead discussants:

- ▶ **Armando Lopez**, Public Ethics Prosecutor, Costa Rica
- ▶ **Milagros Ortiz**, General Director of Ethics and Government Integrity, Dominican Republic
- ▶ **Marushka Chocobar**, Secretary, Government and Digital Transformation, Peru

Discussion amongst Delegations

Ministerial Session 2: Thursday, 9 December

Trust: the cornerstone for building consensus for COVID recovery strategies

This year's mantra has been "The vaccine is the only way to get our lives back". While the vaccine is key, overcoming the impact of the COVID-19 crisis will also require bold and ambitious reforms to enable a strong, inclusive, resilient and green recovery. Only by regaining the public's trust in institutions can countries build the consensus needed to enable the ambitious economic and social protection reforms that will be needed post- COVID. This session will debate how to effectively enhance trust, while showcasing effective COVID responses and recovery strategies which have enhanced citizens trust in institutions and promoted consensus, that can lead to a renewed, fairer and more durable social contract in the region.

9h30–11h
CST

16:30h-18h
CET

Moderator: Ragnheiour Elín Árnadóttir, Director OECD Development Centre

Lead discussants:

- ▶ **Blanca Ibarra**, Commissioner of the National Institute for Transparency, Access to Information and Personal Data Protection, Mexico
- ▶ **Maria Carmelina Londoño**, Vice-Minister of Multilateral Affairs, Colombia
- ▶ **Andrea Costafreda**, Programme Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, OXFAM
- ▶ **David Tuesta**, Chairman of the Private Competitiveness Council, Peru

Discussion amongst Delegations

Concluding Session: Friday, 10 December

From commitments to action

Integrity and the fight against corruption are high on the agenda of LAC leaders. How much progress has been achieved since the adoption of the ambitious 2018 Lima Commitment? What are the priority areas of action? This session will discuss the way forward in the fight against corruption and unlocking greater integrity in Latin America as well as share expectations towards the IX Summit of the Americas. This session will also provide OECD LAC Steering Group members guidance on areas of focus for the LACRP as it enters a new cycle in 2022.

8h–9h30 CST

15h–16h30 CET

Opening remarks

- ▶ **Carlos Alberto Franco França**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brazil*

Key conclusions from the Ministerial and moderation

- ▶ **Janos Bertok**, OECD Deputy Director for Public Governance

Contributions to a broader agenda:

- ▶ **Kevin O'Reilly**, U.S. National Summit Coordinator, United States
- ▶ **Delia Ferreira**, Chair of Transparency International
- ▶ **Ali Karimi-Ruiz**, Senior Director, Business at OECD

Discussion amongst Delegations

10 DECEMBER 2021
9:30 – 11:30 (CST)
16:30-18:30 (CET)

LACRP STEERING GROUP MEETING

The Steering Group Meeting is limited to invited member country delegations and international organisations. Further information will be sent separately to all Steering Group members.