

OECD Going Digital Summit - Issues Note

Session 12: The Global Agenda for Digital Transformation

Digital transformation is increasingly becoming a key topic on the agenda of key international bodies, such as the G20, G7, APEC and ASEAN. The G20 agenda on digital transformation was introduced by China during its G20 presidency and has since been followed up by Germany, Argentina and now Japan. The G7 agenda on the topic has also intensified in recent years, with Japan in 2016, Italy in 2017, Canada in 2018 and now France in 2019, all exploring specific aspects of the digital agenda. In APEC, digital issues are also rising on the agenda, and digital society is among the key priorities of Chile's 2019 presidency. In ASEAN, issues related to the digital agenda are also growing in importance, e.g. as regards connectivity, and are among the priorities of Thailand's 2019 presidency.

The specific themes of the digital agenda of these bodies continue to evolve as the digital transformation unfolds. Policy issues such as connectivity, access and the digital divide have been on the global agenda for digital transformation for many years, as have discussions on electronic commerce, digital security and privacy. But other issues are more recent and growing in importance on the various agendas, e.g. jobs and skills, artificial intelligence, digital trade, data flows as well as competition.

The digital transformation is inherently a global phenomenon that affects all countries in the world. Many of the most important private actors are global firms that operate across national borders. Moreover, policies made in other countries directly affect all parameters of the digital transformation in domestic economies. The global nature of the digital transformation involves a much greater need for global cooperation and coherence of policies across countries. With the exception of some areas within the European Union, the vast majority of policy instruments address issues within national borders, making them often relatively ineffective in addressing challenges at the global level. For example, international collaboration on gathering earth data and their use helps being significantly more effective in tackling environmental challenges. In the same vein, much progress has been made in international collaboration in tax policy that will help raise the effectiveness of tax systems in the digital world. Other areas might require further progress at the international level, however, e.g. issues such as ensuring trust in the digital economy.

Q1: How is the digital agenda developing in your forum? What are its main features?

Q2: What are the key challenges in making progress on the digital agenda at the international level? What are the key achievements thus far?

Q3: What digital policy issues require greater attention at the international level? How can further progress be made?

Q4: How can the OECD best support the international agenda?