

7th OECD ROUNDTABLE OF MAYORS AND MINISTERS

**Tuesday, 19 March 2019
Athens, Greece**

**MAYORS, MINISTERS, MEGATRENDS:
PRINCIPLES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Megaron Athens International Conference Centre

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While global megatrends – such as globalisation, demographic shifts, digitalisation, and climate change – are profoundly altering the prospects of urban economies and societies, neither cities nor national governments can tackle the unprecedented magnitude and pace of change on their own: they need to work together, and with all segments of the society.

In the face of megatrends, the capacity of leaders and territories to innovate, capitalise on new potential and manage policy trade-offs varies both *within* and *across* advanced and emerging countries. Megatrends affect cities in various ways. Lower trade costs for goods and ideas created benefits for firms and consumers, but not all cities will reap the gains from **globalisation**. Although the world is growing more urban everyday, many cities are struggling to meet the needs of a **changing population profile**. The ongoing **production and technological revolution** has the potential to boost smarter urban solutions, but it also puts some jobs at risk of automation, creates a digital divide, raises privacy concerns for citizens and jeopardises urban security. **Climate change** exerts pressure on the demand for food, water and energy, but also opens avenues for innovative models to foster resource efficiency and transition to a low-carbon economy.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda have created unprecedented global momentum to redefine national and local urban priorities, improve planning and resilience, and better align investment across levels of government in a world of relentless turmoil. When joining forces within integrated **National Urban Policies (NUPs)**, cities and national governments can seize new opportunities to advance growth and well-being in a constantly changing world. National Urban Policies offer an enabling instrument to set clear policy directions across pressing and emerging economic, social and environmental challenges and transform megatrends into opportunities to boost national development. Many OECD and partner countries have made progress in developing NUPs, but much remains to be done. Only about half of the 150 countries surveyed in the OECD-UN Habitat 2018 *Global Monitoring of National Urban Policies* have an explicit NUP in place, and the stage of NUP development varies widely across countries. Most importantly, NUPs can only reach their full potential when they are co-designed and co-implemented with cities. **This is why Mayors and Ministers need to rethink national urban policies from the ground up, in line with national and global strategies and frameworks, to support their effective implementation.**

The **7th OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers**, organised in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Development of Greece and the City of Athens, will see mayors and ministers exchange ideas, experiences and good practices from around the world on how to channel global megatrends for more productive, sustainable and inclusive cities in a constantly changing world. Mayors and Ministers will be invited to share their recipes and practical examples of successful National Urban Policies for cities of all sizes, by providing illustrations of how they can use the *OECD Principles on Urban Policy* in their own country. The discussion will be organised in two rounds, focusing on the **co-design** and the **co-implementation** of National Urban Policies, respectively.

Established in 2007, the OECD Roundtable of Mayors and Ministers is a unique global platform convening high-level representatives from both national and local governments to discuss pressing urban policy issues. It builds on the OECD's long-established expertise in urban development and tradition of policy dialogue across levels of government. Previous Roundtables were held in Madrid (2007), Milan (2008), Paris (2010), Chicago (2012), Marseille (2013) and Mexico City (2015).

The Roundtable will follow the **4th Meeting of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative** hosted by Georgios Kaminis, Mayor of Athens, on 18 March 2019 (12h-18h). The 4th Meeting will focus on how cities can leverage all types of innovation – social, technological, and public sector – to promote inclusive growth and enhance citizen well-being. The Roundtable precedes the **OECD Regional Development Policy Committee meeting at Ministerial level**, which will convene on 19-20 March 2019 under the theme “Megatrends: Building better futures for regions, cities and rural areas”.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

MAYORS, MINISTERS, MEGATRENDS: PRINCIPLES FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Moderated by a professional

09:00-09:30 OPENING ADDRESS

- **GEORGIOS KAMINIS**, MAYOR OF ATHENS, GREECE
- **YANNIS DRAGASAKIS**, MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT, GREECE
- **ANGEL GURRÍA**, SECRETARY GENERAL, OECD

09:30-10:30 CO-DESIGNING URBAN POLICIES ACROSS LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT

In the face of megatrends, reshaping National Urban Policies to embrace cities of all sizes is essential to fit for the future and tame the rise of a “geography of discontent” where many places feel forgotten.

What reforms should be introduced to existing National Urban Policies to better prepare for and address megatrends such as globalisation, digitalisation, demographic changes and climate change? How to ensure that Mayors and Ministers work closely together in co-designing a new generation of National urban Policies?

- **Globalisation** has changed the economic fortunes of many cities, some growing into global hubs of knowledge and investment, others thriving with new niches and opportunities, while others fall behind.
 - **How to ensure that National Urban Policies support sustainable growth in all types of cities, including of all sizes? What critical dimensions of the current National Urban Policies framework need to be adjusted?**
- **Digitalisation, automation and the use of new technologies** can greatly improve city competitiveness and the quality of life of many more citizens. An increasing number of cities has developed a smart city strategy to improve mobility and access to critical resources and public services. Yet, not all segments of the urban population are benefitting from the changes, and the adoption of new technologies is also likely to exacerbate existing divides between, and within, cities.
 - **How can Mayors and Ministers anticipate and address these divides and shape smart cities of the future that are inclusive and sustainable? If digitalisation and automation are expected to leave some people behind, what compensatory measures need to be taken?**
- **Demographic changes**, including population ageing and increased in-migration, raise both challenges and opportunities for cities and countries now and in the future. Cities need to accommodate new needs, sometimes in an urgent manner, and adapt their urban infrastructure to fit a new type of populations. On the other hand, there are unexploited economic opportunities from the silver economy and through migrant entrepreneurship.
 - **How to ensure that a new generation of National Urban Policies better takes into account these demographic patterns? How to make sure that national frameworks are sufficiently flexible and forward-looking to allow urban infrastructure and services to respond adequately to a changing demographic environment? Which strategies can help take better advantage of the elderly and migrants in cities' economies?**
- Today, all levels of governments address **climate change**, which requires sound multi-level governance frameworks. While there are wide economic benefits coming from climate-related policies, some national measures may come at political and social costs, as they may affect some disadvantaged groups and places disproportionately.
 - **How can National Urban Policies facilitate the alignment of objectives and outcomes of climate policies across levels of governments? What measures should be taken to anticipate and better address possible trade-offs, typically between climate and inclusion?**

10:30-11:30

TOOLS FOR BRIDGING NATIONAL AND LOCAL URBAN POLICIES

Once co-designed, National Urban Policies require capacity, funding and governance to be implemented effectively and to deliver better lives for people in all places. A successful, two-way and win-win collaboration among Mayors and Ministers strategies is a key component of the enabling environment needed for urban policies to drive inclusive and sustainable growth.

What types of innovative tools and new forms of partnerships can help Mayors and Ministers work effectively together to catalyse the needed resources and deliver a new generation of National Urban Policies fit for the future?

- Megatrends bring about a new level of complexity that requires flexible urban solutions and new skills to think 'outside the box'. But change in policymaking does not happen automatically. Public officials at all levels of government need help to anticipate and respond to unprecedented transformations in cities.
 - **Which new types of technical and human capacities need to be built at both local and national levels to pilot, experiment, learn and innovate together to adapt swiftly to megatrends?**
- Cities are constantly challenged to upgrade and maintain their infrastructure to keep pace with demographic, environmental and technological demands. Current spending is not sufficient to address these demands. Cities need to invest more and diversify their sources of financing. Smart, innovative investments in infrastructure are essential to give every urban resident a chance to move up the economic and social ladder and enjoy a safe and healthy urban environment.
 - **Which most promising financial tools need to be up-scaled or created to meet the pressing infrastructure and service delivery needs of the cities of tomorrow?**
- Neither Mayors nor Ministers can alone embrace the full range of opportunities and risks that megatrends are raising in cities. More efficient decisions can emerge from innovative ways to pool ideas and resources together across national and local levels.
 - **Which innovative institutional settings and governance mechanisms, including new forms of collaborative tools and partnerships, can facilitate joint action across local and national governments in a constantly changing policy landscape?**

11:30-12:00

CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD: AN ACTION PLAN FOR THE OECD PRINCIPLES ON URBAN POLICY

Nurturing a multi-stakeholder community of practice linking cities and national governments is a critical lever to rethink and reshape urban policy in a shared responsibility. Mayors and Ministers will be invited to raise the profile of the *OECD Principles on Urban Policy* and suggest ideas for their implementation.

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