

Strategic Foresight

Duncan Cass-Beggs, Counsellor for Strategic Foresight



Duncan.cass-beggs@oecd.org



<https://youtu.be/ej80SmMMhz0>

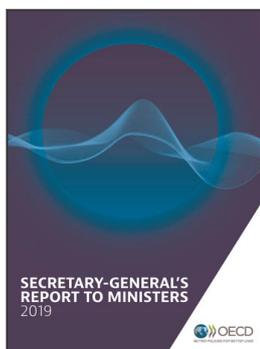
The OECD Strategic Foresight unit helps governments, OECD directorates and the OECD as a whole build the capacity to anticipate and prepare for uncertain, complex and turbulent futures. This involves working closely with OECD staff, national government officials and leading foresight practitioners worldwide to explore disruptive changes that could occur in the future, and their implications for policy decisions today. The aim is to challenge prevailing assumptions and stimulate ongoing dialogue to find the most adaptive policies for a rapidly evolving and uncertain world.

The first set of key activities is focused on building foresight capacity and strengthening foresight content within the OECD. The primary goal is to ensure that emerging changes and critical uncertainties about the future are better reflected in OECD policy analysis and advice. This involves working with directorates to design and facilitate foresight workshops for their staff or their committees, as well as providing training and support across directorates on how to use foresight to strengthen policy making in key areas. The foresight unit also works with directorates on longer-term foresight projects, especially on cross-cutting issues with long-term uncertainty and high policy significance for governments.

Secondly, the unit strengthens foresight capacity in national governments by co-ordinating the Government Foresight Community, composed of over 100 experienced foresight professionals working in governments and international organisations around the world. This includes hosting a thematic workshop in the spring and an annual meeting

in the autumn, as well as participating in other international strategic foresight fora. The unit works with individual governments to help them adopt best practices in anticipatory governance and build their public sector foresight capacity. Additionally, it helps them to design and deliver tailored strategic foresight processes to address key national priorities (such as developing future-ready strategies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals or preparing for possible scenarios resulting from digital transformation). The foresight unit also works closely with OECD ambassadors and delegations to strengthen foresight in their national governments and at the OECD.

Finally, the unit helps to bring foresight process and content to bear on and inform high-level global dialogue on key issues. This includes preparing materials to support the OECD's annual Ministerial Council Meeting and Global Strategy Group, as well as designing and facilitating foresight workshops for senior-level discussion at the request of the OECD Secretary-General or Chief of Staff. ■



From:
Secretary-General's Report to Ministers 2019

Access the complete publication at:

<https://doi.org/10.1787/d4b4a55c-en>

Please cite this chapter as:

OECD (2019), "Strategic Foresight", in *Secretary-General's Report to Ministers 2019*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/5ec01113-en>

This work is published under the responsibility of the Secretary-General of the OECD. The opinions expressed and arguments employed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of OECD member countries.

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

You can copy, download or print OECD content for your own use, and you can include excerpts from OECD publications, databases and multimedia products in your own documents, presentations, blogs, websites and teaching materials, provided that suitable acknowledgment of OECD as source and copyright owner is given. All requests for public or commercial use and translation rights should be submitted to rights@oecd.org. Requests for permission to photocopy portions of this material for public or commercial use shall be addressed directly to the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) at info@copyright.com or the Centre français d'exploitation du droit de copie (CFC) at contact@cfcopies.com.