

# Agenda

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**Moving beyond the  
COVID-19 crisis to a  
better labour market  
that works for all**

OECD Employment and Labour Ministerial Meeting

7 June 2022

## 7 June 2022

8:15 – 9:15	Arrival of Ministers and Heads of Delegation	
9:30 – 9:50	Welcome address	Room CC15

Introductory remarks by **Mr Mathias Cormann**, OECD Secretary-General, and **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom)

09:50 – 11:10	Plenary session: Maximising resilience: Learning from effective policies to cushion future economic slowdowns	Room CC15
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Session Chair: **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom)

All governments took bold measures to cushion the immediate impact of the COVID-19 crisis and support the recovery. Some countries have relied heavily on pre-existing measures, or adapted them to the COVID-19 context, while others have introduced new measures from scratch. Some of these measures were designed to be temporary, including those to promote job retention or support the incomes of displaced workers, and governments are scaling them back as the crisis subsides. Now, new challenges have arisen, such as higher costs of energy and commodities.

- What are the key lessons from your experience of having to quickly and massively ramp up measures or introduce new ones to respond to the COVID-19 crisis? What did and did not work as part of the government response to the crisis? Are there any temporary measures that you are planning to keep in some form?
- What measures is your country taking in response to the rise in the cost of living? How does it strike the balance between protecting the incomes of workers and avoiding the risk of creating a wage-price spiral? To what extent is wage indexation used? What is the role of the social partners?
- How did your government ensure the effective implementation of policies and their co-ordination across ministries and governance levels during the COVID-19 crisis? What has been the role of administrative systems for the monitoring, co-ordination and implementation of policies? What lessons do you see for government interventions in response to the rise in the cost of living?
- How are the lessons from the policy response to the crisis shaping a recovery that seizes new opportunities to make labour markets more resilient, inclusive and green? Are in-depth evaluations planned and what form would these take?

11:10 – 11:30	Coffee break	CC Foyer
11:30 – 12:45	Plenary session – <i>continued</i>	Room CC15

Session Chair: **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom)

In the last part of this session, the Chair will invite Ministers to adopt the Policy Statement.

12:45 – 13:00	Group photograph (location to be announced by the Chair)	
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13:00 – 14:45

**Working lunch: Focusing on the fallout from Russia's aggression against Ukraine**

**Room C,  
Château**

Keynote speakers:

**Ms Maryna Volodymyrivna Lazebna**, Minister of Social Policy (Ukraine) – virtual intervention

**Ms Kelly T. Clements**, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees

15:00 – 16:30

**Parallel breakout sessions**

**Theme 1: Promoting sustainability and resilience: Rebuilding better and more sustainable jobs that benefit individuals, employers, sectors and places**

**Room CC2**

Session Chair: **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom)

As economic conditions improve, policy makers will need to foster durable, environmentally sustainable and gender-sensitive job-creation, while continuing to support individuals, firms and regions most affected by the crisis.

- How does your government manage the differences between sectors with low vacancies against those with high vacancies and few employees to fill them?
- What strategies does your government use to boost employment and investment in job-creating sectors? What steps are you taking to support those sectors still impacted by the pandemic? How can we ensure sectors experiencing growth deliver good-quality jobs?
- What specific strategies are effective in boosting employment of underrepresented groups, such as persons with disabilities?
- What measures have been put in place to improve employment opportunities across regions? What has been done to address regional disparities? What lessons have governments learned in their efforts to improve employment rates?

**Theme 2: Promoting sustainability and resilience: Equipping individuals for a post-crisis labour market**

**Room CC4**

Session Chair: **Ms Signe Riisalo**, Minister of Social Protection, Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (Estonia)

The crisis has affected the progression of structural changes driven by digitalisation, the transition to a low-carbon economy and globalisation. The pandemic has also underscored the higher risk of job loss and long-term unemployment amongst adults in low-skill and low-wage occupations, as well as amongst adults with low digital skills. This session will focus on policies to equip individuals for a post-crisis labour market.

- How can adult education and training measures, as well as activation measures more widely, be designed and implemented in a way that benefits those with jobs at risk and low digital skills? What good practices can you share?
- How does your government support individuals at risk of job loss before it has occurred? To what extent do the measures in place facilitate workers' reallocation from declining to growing and more sustainable jobs?
- What is the role of employers and social partners in facilitating workers' training and informal on-the-job learning? How can they facilitate job transitions in co-operation with other institutions?

**Theme 3: Bringing all on board: Reversing increasing inequalities**

**Room CC6**

Session Chair: **Mr José Luis Escrivá**, Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (Spain)

The COVID-19 crisis has accentuated socio-economic divides in labour markets and societies. Vulnerable labour market groups, such as workers on non-standard contracts, low-paid workers, young people, and in some cases women, have been most heavily affected by job and earnings losses. This session will focus on policies to reverse existing inequalities and bringing all on board in the recovery.

- How successful has your country been at ensuring that emergency programmes during the COVID-19 crisis reached the most affected groups, such as the low skilled, young people, women, persons with disabilities, migrants and racial/ethnic minorities? Has your country explicitly targeted support to such groups, or designed programmes so as to facilitate easier access?
- Which of the emergency measures that you have taken may remain in place more permanently, because they address larger structural challenges and help tackle inequalities?
- In light of the war in Ukraine, what measures are needed now to support low-income households and workers and employers in heavily affected sectors? What measures has your country taken, and what have the challenges been?
- What are the key labour market risks affecting vulnerable groups of workers in your country in the near future?

**Theme 4: Bringing all on board: Supporting young people**

**Room CC10**

Session Chair: **Ms Luisa María Alcalde Luján**, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare, Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (Mexico)

The COVID-19 crisis has not only highlighted the vulnerability of young people to economic recessions but has imposed additional costs on the youth still in education through disruptions to their learning activities and restrictions on their social life. For many of them, the impact of the crisis will only be temporary, but for others, there is a risk of long-lasting scars on their careers and broader social and economic outcomes. This session will focus on policies to support young people.

- Which groups of young people are most at risk of being left behind in your country as it recovers from the effects of the COVID 19 pandemic and faces new challenges due to the war in Ukraine?
- What measures is your government implementing to effectively support young people, and in particular vulnerable youth, to make a successful transition from school to work, to return to work or to stay in work?
- What measures is your government using to prepare young people to adapt to future changes in the economy and the labour market, including skills requirements?

**Theme 5: Paving the way to the new workplace: Getting the most out of the digital transformation**

**Room CC16**

Session Chair: **Mr Pierre-Yves Dermagne**, Minister of Economy and Employment, Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (Belgium)

The digital transformation is shifting into a higher gear with rapid advances in the capabilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the increased adoption of new digital technologies. The greater use of digital technologies including AI in the workplace has an impact on both labour conditions (telework, the “right to disconnect” and new forms of control) and labour relations. The balance between the risks and benefits associated with the use of digital technologies in the workplace will depend largely on the policies and regulations that will frame its development and adoption. These should aim to both encourage job creation and innovation, while reinforcing workers’ rights, social security systems and occupational health and safety. This session will focus on policies to get the most out of the digital transformation.

- What can governments, together with social partners, do to better prepare the labour market for the new opportunities that AI will offer?
- What can be done to steer the development and dissemination of AI applications to promote a fair transition and greater labour market inclusion?
- How to effectively regulate the development and use of AI in the workplace so as to promote innovation and productivity, while at the same time preserving human-centred values and fairness, as well as inclusion and accessibility?
- How can we ensure workers’ labour and social protection rights, to avoid undermining of the labour market relations and to address the challenges of algorithmic decision-making?

**16:30 – 16:50**

**Coffee break**

**CC Foyer**

**16:50 – 17:30**

**Report from breakout sessions by the Chairs**

**Room CC15**

This last session will allow the Chairs of the breakout sessions to report the main insights in their group to the plenary.

- **Mr Pierre-Yves Dermagne**, Minister of Economy and Employment (Belgium)
- **Ms Signe Riisalo**, Minister of Social Protection (Estonia)
- **Ms Luisa María Alcalde Luján**, Minister of Labor and Social Welfare (Mexico)
- **Mr José Luis Escrivá**, Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration (Spain)
- **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (United Kingdom)

**17:30 – 17:45**

**Closing of the Meeting**

**Room CC15**

Closing remarks by **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom), and **Ms Laurence Boone**, OECD Deputy Secretary-General and Chief Economist

**18:00 – 20:00**

**Cocktail**

**Salon du Parc**

**20:00 – 22:00**

**Ministerial Dinner**

**Room Roger Ockrent, Château**

8 June 2022

9:00 – 9:30	Registration of participants	
9:30 – 11.00	Labour markets post-COVID: Are we emerging greener and more inclusive?	Room CC7

The Ministerial Panel will bring together Labour Ministers from OECD countries to discuss the theme: “Labour markets post-COVID: Are we emerging greener and more inclusive?” The event will have an in-person audience and be live webcast. The OECD Secretary-General, **Mr Mathias Cormann**, will make opening remarks. The focus of the panel discussion will be on post-pandemic recovery plans and their potential to shape a recovery that is both green and inclusive. Ministers are invited to speak about the challenges and the actions that they have been taking to ensure that the green transition is successful and inclusive, and that labour markets post-COVID create equal opportunities for all workers and firms. The Ministerial Panel will be moderated by **Ms Emma Nelson**.

Panellists:

- **Ms Thérèse Coffey**, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (United Kingdom)
- **Mr José Luis Escrivá**, Minister of Inclusion, Social Security and Migration, Vice-Chair of the Ministerial Meeting (Spain)
- **Ms Karien van Gennip**, Minister of Social Affairs and Employment (Netherlands)
- **Ms Thea Lee**, Deputy Undersecretary for International Affairs, Department of Labor (United States)
- **Mr José Carlos Oliveira**, Minister for Labor and Social Security (Brazil)