

Secretary-General's activity in 2018

OVERVIEW

In 2018, the OECD Secretary-General had an intense agenda of official engagements, both in Paris and abroad. Through these activities, he was able to advance the relevance, impact and visibility of the Organisation through continuing to provide support and timely and targeted policy advice to OECD member and partner countries in their reform efforts, as well as carrying out his regular management of the OECD Secretariat and governance of the Organisation.

In Paris, the Secretary-General chaired Council sessions, participated in several OECD events and meetings and hosted many high-level interlocutors in Paris. Over the course of the year, he hosted over 20 heads of state or government at the Organisation through the Leaders' Programme, including French President Emmanuel Macron, and participated in several international conferences held at our premises. The OECD Secretariat and delegations have also benefited from these visits through a programme of public lectures, featuring leading thinkers and innovators who participated in the New Approaches to Economic Challenges seminars and the Coffees of the Secretary-General series.

The Secretary-General also made 45 trips abroad, where he engaged in hundreds of formal and informal meetings with many leaders and key stakeholders. These trips included his participation in the main international summits that took place throughout the year, such as the G7 Leaders' Summit in Charlevoix, the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, the Opening of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York and COP24 (UN Climate Change Conference) in Katowice.

In total, the Secretary-General attended over 560 formal bilateral meetings over the course of the year. These included 57 formal meetings with heads of state or government, 21 meetings with heads of international organisations and 153 meetings with ministers, as well as numerous informal interactions with high-level officials and senior stakeholders.

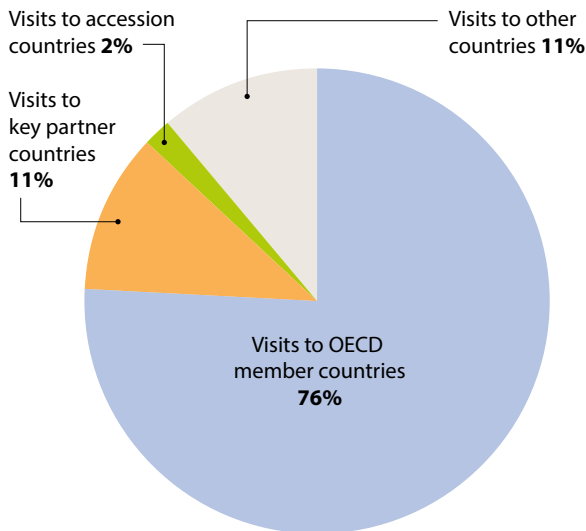
The Organisation's media presence and coverage also remained consistently high.

ACTIVITY ABROAD

Since 2007, the Secretary-General completed almost 600 trips abroad (593).

In 2018, 34 of his 45 visits abroad (76%) were to OECD member countries. Five were to key partner countries and six were to accession and other non-member countries:

- Thirty-four trips to 22 of the 36 OECD member countries: Austria (3 visits), Belgium (1), Canada (3), Chile (1), Czech Republic (1), Germany (1), Greece (1), Ireland (1), Italy (1), Japan (1), Korea (1), Latvia (1), Lithuania (1), Mexico (4), the Netherlands (1), Poland (1), Portugal (1), Slovakia (1), Spain (3), Switzerland (2), the United Kingdom (1) and the United States (3).
- Five visits to key partner countries: Brazil (1), Indonesia (1) and the People's Republic of China (3). The Chief of Staff and the Deputy Secretaries-General also visited key partner countries on a number of occasions to support the Secretary-General's activities.
- Six visits to accession and other non-member countries: Argentina (3), Bulgaria (1), Costa Rica (1) and the United Arab Emirates (1).

Figure 1: Secretary-General's visits abroad, 2018

The main purposes of most of these trips were to advance the OECD's advisory role in the respective countries, present relevant OECD work linked to the country's reform agenda and increase the Organisation's profile. During every visit, the Secretary-General met with leaders and key members of the government. He presented seven OECD Better Policies series reports, produced by his Cabinet, during his visits abroad and in meetings with leaders.

Occasionally, the visits related to participation in major fora or events. The Secretary-General represented the OECD and presented the Organisation's latest work at important international events, including: the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, the International Monetary Fund and World Bank meetings in Washington, the G7 Leaders' Summit in Charlevoix, the G20 Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires, the Heads of International Organisations' meeting in Berlin and the COP24 in Katowice. He also participated in important OECD ministerial meetings and conferences abroad, such as the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) Ministerial Conference in Mexico City, the Social Policy Forum and Ministerial Meeting in Montreal,

the Skills Summit in Porto and the World Forum on Statistics, Knowledge and Policy in Incheon.

The Secretary-General met with key ministers and leaders of every country visited. These included: Afghan Chief Executive Dr. Abdullah Abdullah and Vice President Mohammad Sarwar Danish, Argentinian Vice President Gabriela Michetti, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, Bermudian Premier Edward David Burt, Brazilian President Michel Temer, Bulgarian President Rumen Radev and Prime Minister Boyko Borissov, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Chilean President Sebastián Piñera, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Colombian Presidents Iván Duque Márquez and Juan Manuel Santos, Costa Rican Presidents Carlos Alvarado Quesada and Luis Guillermo Solís, HRH Crown Princess Mary Elizabeth of Denmark, French President Emmanuel Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Ghanaian President Nana Akufo-Addo, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, Icelandic Prime Minister Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Irish Taoiseach Leo Varadkar, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzō Abe, Latvian President Raimonds Vējonis and Prime Minister Māris Kučinskis, Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaitė, Luxembourg Prime Minister Xavier Bettel, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto, HM Queen Máxima of the Netherlands and Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg, Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela, Peruvian Prime Minister Mercedes Aráoz, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki, Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa, Serbian Prime Minister Ana Brnabić, HM King Felipe VI of Spain, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven, Swiss President Alain Berset, United Arab Emirates Vice President and Prime Minister HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Zimbabwean President Emmerson Mnangagwa.

The Secretary-General met regularly with members of parliament in the countries he visited and addressed congresses in some of his visits. He also

met with representatives from the private sector, trade unions and civil society during his trips abroad. Most of his visits featured public events in which he had the opportunity to address a broader audience and share the OECD's messages with the public, including at universities and leading think tanks.

In 2018, the OECD further strengthened its ties with the G20. The Secretary-General was invited to participate in all high-level G20 meetings under the Argentinian Presidency. These included several thematic meetings, such as those with the finance ministers and central bank governors in Argentina in the spring and Indonesia in the fall, in addition to the G20 Summit in Buenos Aires at the end of the year. He also attended major meetings of the G7 in Canada and the UN General Assembly in New York in September.

ACTIVITY IN PARIS

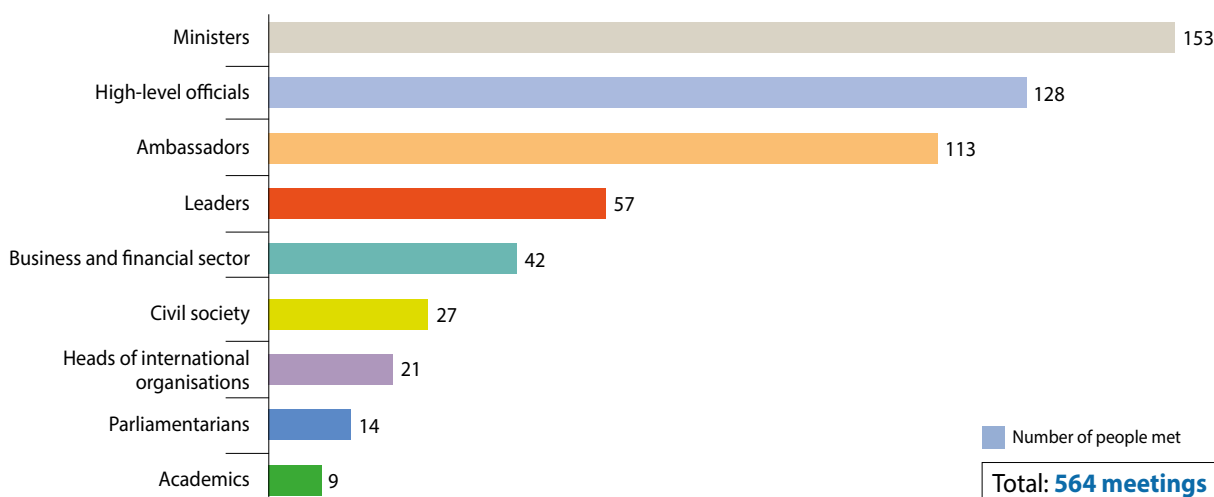
In 2018, the Secretary-General received 20 leaders in Paris. During the OECD Week alone, 4 heads of state or government (Colombia, France, Latvia and Lithuania), 6 deputy prime ministers or vice-presidents (Belgium, Costa Rica, Korea, Poland, Slovenia and Turkey), 59 ministers, 24 vice-ministers

and hundreds of other high-level officials visited the Organisation. The Secretary-General also participated in the annual meeting of the OECD Global Strategy Group on 19-20 November.

The Secretary-General also delivered keynote remarks and participated in other important events hosted at the OECD. These included conferences, global fora and high-level committee meetings, such as the OECD Centre for Opportunity and Equality (COPE) International Diversity Forum, the OECD Global Parliamentary Network Meeting, the OECD Global Anti-Corruption and Integrity Forum, the OECD Global Forum on Development, the "No Money for Terror" conference, the OECD International Economic Forum on Latin America and the Caribbean, the Committee Chairs' Lunch ahead of the MCM, the Ministerial Meeting of the OECD's Environment Policy Committee, the Global Forum on Responsible Business Conduct, the G20 Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity Ministerial Meeting, and the Conference of Paris.

In 2018, the Secretary-General also devoted a large portion of his time to the regular exercise of his management duties, as well as his chairing of the OECD Council and interaction with delegations.

Figure 2: Secretary-General's bilateral meetings at OECD headquarters and abroad, 2018



In total, he held 59 bilateral meetings with OECD ambassadors and chaired 24 sessions of the OECD Council, 10 heads of delegation meetings, 8 meetings of the MCM Bureau, 13 regular meetings with chairs of standing committees and 9 meetings of the Group of Directors. He also held 51 preparatory meetings on substance and activities with different units of the Organisation, 71 regular meetings with OECD directors and 90 regular senior management meetings, as well as hundreds of management meetings on OECD housekeeping issues.

COMMUNICATION AND VISIBILITY

During 2018, the OECD continued consolidating its impact and visibility. Outreach and communication activities by the Secretary-General took centre stage and played a critical role in achieving this goal.

The Secretary-General gave 114 sit-down interviews while on mission and 36 in Paris from the OECD studio, in addition to many *ad hoc* interviews and press points. He launched 37 Outlooks, flagship publications and reports in 18 different countries (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, Finland, Germany, Greece, Indonesia, Ireland, Korea, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Tunisia and the United States) and in the European Union.

During the year, the Secretary-General delivered 342 speeches and was quoted 4 823 times in the media and in 869 original articles. He authored 4 op-eds in different media outlets as well as several other articles and pieces translated into 13 languages. Social media use and presence jumped, allowing the Organisation to reach broader audiences and join global conversations on key issues. The Secretary-General's Twitter account and contributions on various social media platforms provided the opportunity to use innovative approaches to promote the work of the Organisation. ■

Figure 3: Number of speeches, 2014-18

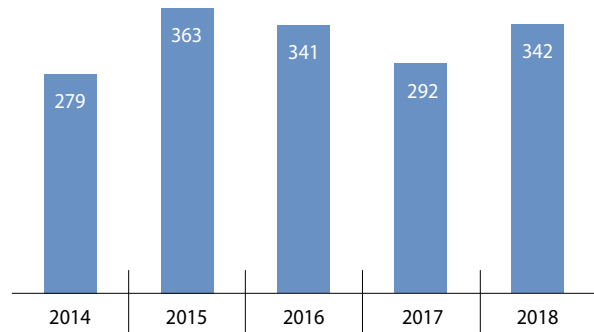


Figure 4: Number of quotes in articles, 2014-18

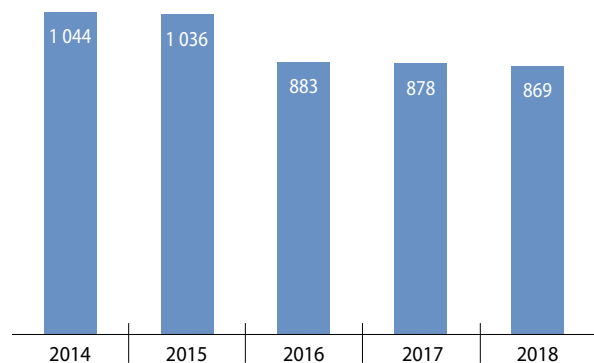
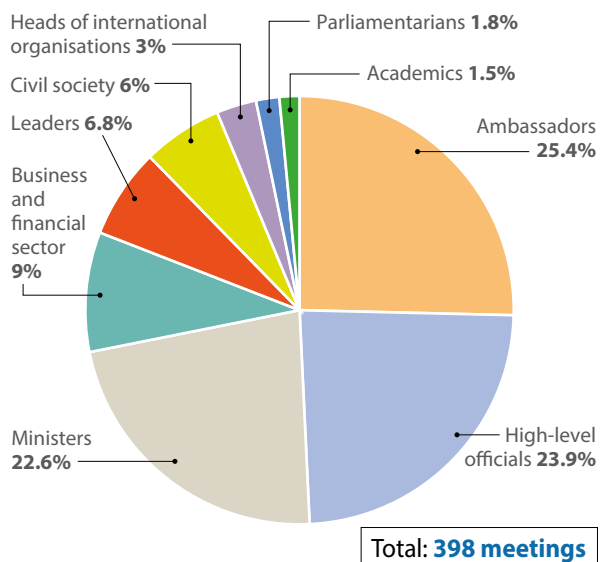
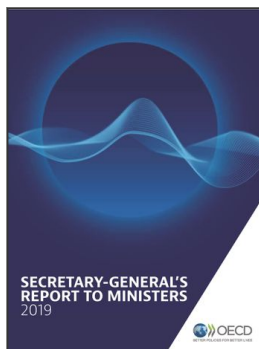


Figure 5: Breakdown of meetings at OECD headquarters, 2018





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), "Secretary-General's activity in 2018", in *Secretary-General's Report to Ministers 2019*, OECD Publishing, Paris.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1787/ac573699-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, as well as any data and 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. Extracts from publications may be subject to additional disclaimers, which are set out in the complete version of the publication, available at the link provided.

The use of this work, whether digital or print, is governed by the Terms and Conditions to be found at <http://www.oecd.org/termsandconditions>.