A PARTNERSHIP FOR EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL RULE-MAKING (IO PARTNERSHIP)

International organisations (IOs) play a crucial role in supporting international regulatory co-operation and helping countries achieve their public policy objectives. They do so by providing platforms for continuous multilateral dialogue, exchange of experience and the development of common approaches. Ensuring the quality of the international rules they help develop is key to an effective global governance system.
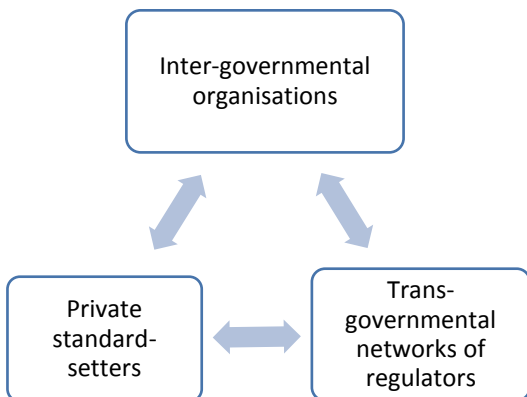
The partnership offers a voluntary platform to foster collective action among IOs and their constituency to promote greater quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules, regardless of their substantive scope. Ultimately, this work helps to build greater confidence of domestic regulators and legislators in international rules and support greater uptake of good quality international instruments in national legislation.

A STRUCTURED FRAMEWORK

- **Annual meetings** to foster dialogue on shared challenges and support common understanding on good practices in international rulemaking;

- **Analytical work** using OECD's long standing method of peer exchange and evidence-based analysis;

- **Collaborative workspace** through an e-platform to facilitate exchange of practices and experience;

- **Working groups** to better tailor the specific needs of IOs and address more in-depth issues.

- **A group of Academic Friends of the IO partnership** to harness expertise and on-going research of relevant academics.

OUR PARTNERS

- **53 international organisations:**
  - ❖ 45 participants
  - ❖ 8 observers

- The partnership is flexible, cross-sector, and serves a wide variety of organisations involved in international rule-making, notwithstanding their nature or mandate.

- It also invites contributions from a broad range of stakeholders, including governments, the private sector, civil society and academia.

FOCUS THEMES FOR 2017-19

The work is articulated around **five focus themes** identified as priorities in 2014-2016. Dedicated working groups join efforts to develop typologies and to build common understanding of terminology, by sharing existing knowledge, collecting evidence, exchanging experience and practices of rule-making in their respective area of activity.
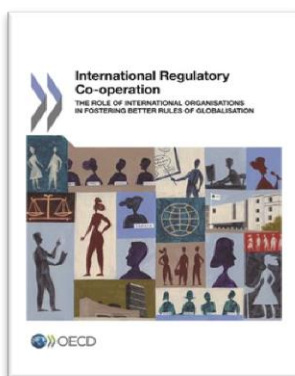
Enhancing understanding of the variety in international instruments	Strengthening the implementation of IO instruments	Ensuring effective stakeholder engagement	Developing a greater culture of evaluation of IO rules and standards	Maximising the opportunities for co-ordination

OECD
BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

THE STORY SO FAR

Since 2014, some 50 IOs have worked together to strengthen the quality, effectiveness and impact of international rules through a voluntary partnership managed by the OECD. This cooperation has led to:

- **4 annual meetings and 2 brainstorming sessions** fostering dialogue between IO representatives, country delegates and academics at the OECD Headquarters.
- Launch of a **cross-cutting report** on *International regulatory co-operation: the role of international organisations in fostering better rules of globalisation,* a unique stock-taking of the governance modalities and rule-making practices of some 50 IOs, at the OECD Headquarters on 2 November 2016.
- **Specific studies** on the rule-making practices of OECD, IMO, FAO, ISO, OIML, WHO, UNECE.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 IO REPORT

- IOs focus on development of rules rather than on their enforcement and implementation.
- The vast majority of IOs rely essentially on non-binding instruments.
- Implementation is mostly done through voluntary peer reviews.
- IOs increasingly engage with stakeholders, though many lack a systematic approach.
- Evaluation practices by IOs are limited due to lack of evidence, methodology and mandate.
- Many IOs operate in institutionally crowded areas and cooperation remains loose.

OECD WORK ON REGULATORY QUALITY AND COOPERATION

- The OECD has led work on regulatory policy and governance for over 20 years, through its Regulatory Policy Committee. In 2012, OECD countries adopted the Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance, making international regulatory co-operation a key ingredient of regulatory policy.
- In 2013, the OECD released a synthetic stocktaking of knowledge and evidence on the various mechanisms available to governments to promote regulatory co-operation, and their benefits and challenges. This work showed the role international regulatory co-operation plays to 'harness' and create the rules of globalisation. Its potential remains however still largely untapped.

INTERNATIONAL RULE-MAKING

"International rule-making" is understood broadly, from the design and development of international instruments to their implementation and enforcement. In line with the OECD work and to reflect the breadth of normative activity of IOs, the term "rules" encompasses legal and policy instruments, as well as technical standards developed by IOs, regardless of their legal effects or attributes and of the nature of the IO (public or private). They range from legally binging instruments to different types of non-legally binding instruments and voluntary approaches.

FIND OUT MORE

- Find out how the partnership is supporting efforts for better regulatory co-operation here: www.oecd.org/gov/regulatory-policy/a-partnership-for-effective-international-rule-making.htm
- If you wish to know more about the partnership, please contact the Secretariat (contact.iopartnership@oecd.org)

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