OECD Government at a Glance 2023
Preview of results

26 June 2023

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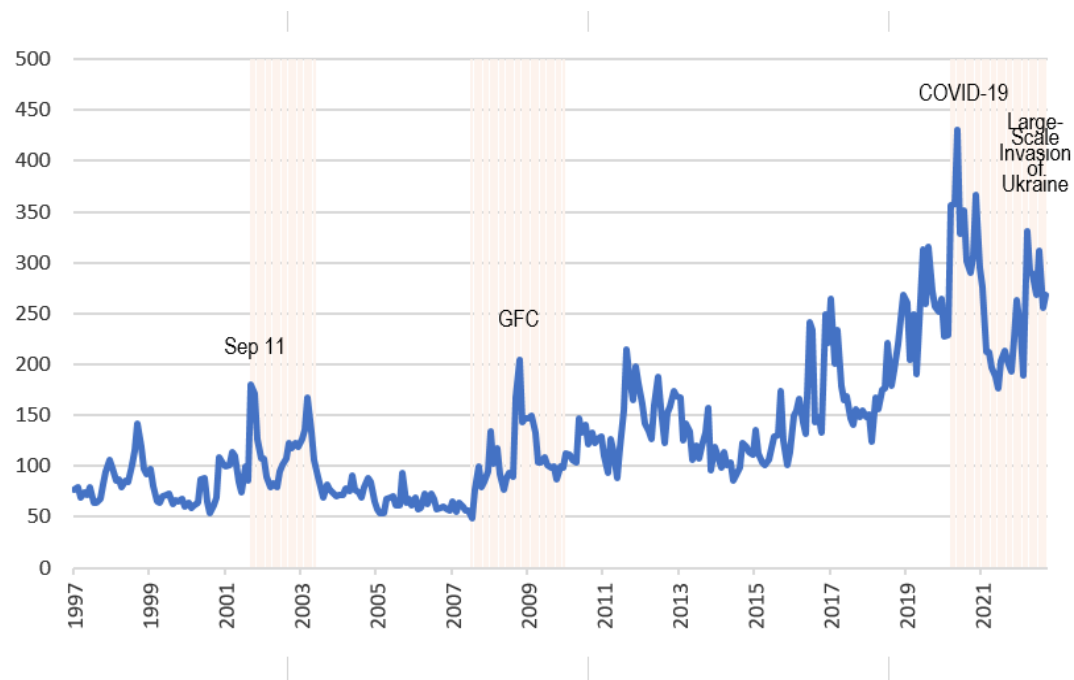Deputy Director for Public Governance, OECD

# Governments are working in a context of multiple crises

Perceptions of **global economic policy uncertainty have** increased since 2009

Uncertainty about the economic outlook is high and **the margins for maneuver limited**

Global Economic Policy Uncertainty Index, 1997-2021

General government fiscal balance as a % of GDP; OECD area and largest OECD economies, 2007-2022
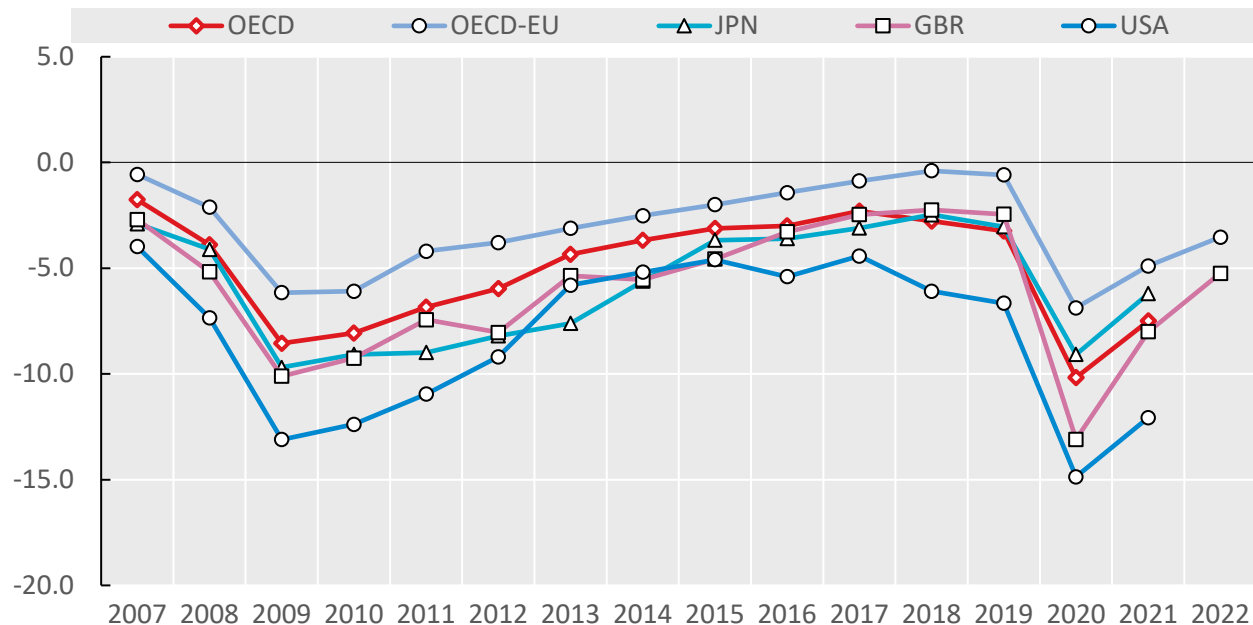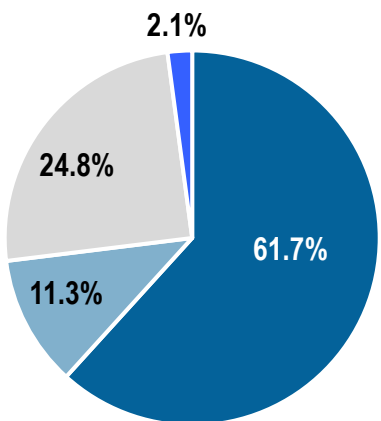
Governments are seen as reliable and resilient to handle the COVID-19 pandemic
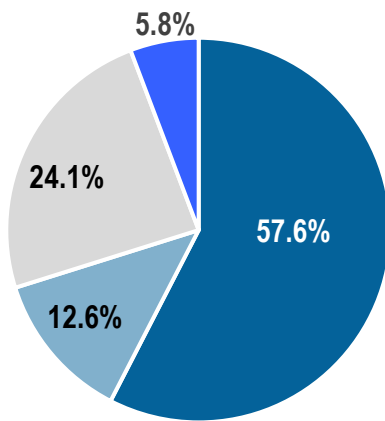
Most people are broadly satisfied with public services and **about half of the population (49%)** expects the government to be prepared for the next pandemic

Satisfaction with public services, OECD average, 2021

Healthcare

2.1%
24.8%
11.3%
61.7%

Education

5.8%
24.1%
12.6%
57.6%

Administrative services

6.0%
17.4%
13.6%
63.0%
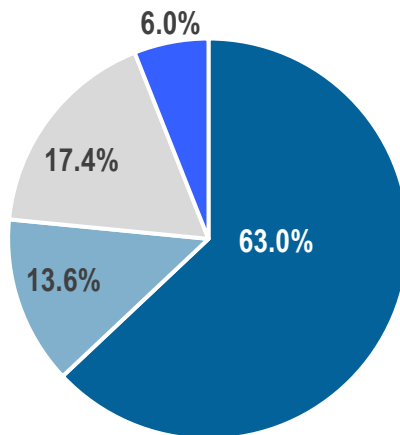
People's expectation on government preparedness for the next pandemic, OECD average, 2021

4%
33%
14%
49%
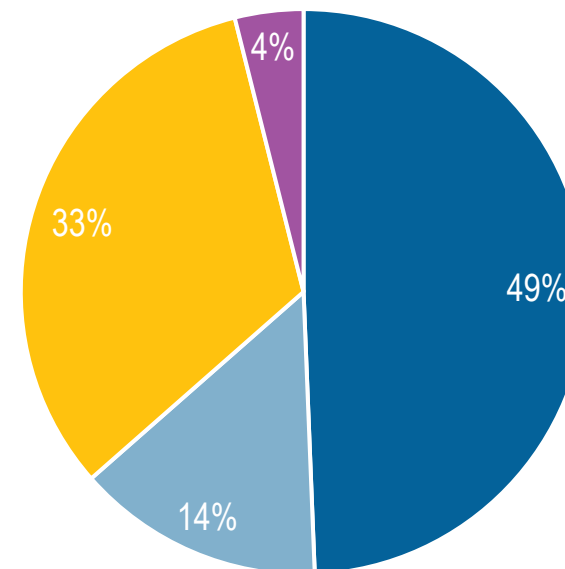
■ Likely ■ Neutral ■ Unlikely ■ Don't know

Source: Government at a Glance 2023

Investments in democratic resilience are needed in the current poli-crises environment

An even split between those who report high or moderately high **trust** and those with no or low trust. **Disadvantaged groups have lower levels of trust in government**

Share of respondents who indicate different levels of trust in their national government (on a 0-10 scale), 2021

Legend: ■ High or moderately high trust ■ Neutral ■ Low or no trust ■ Don't know

Categories: OECD, Low education, Young (age 18-29), Financially vulnerable, Low feeling of having a say
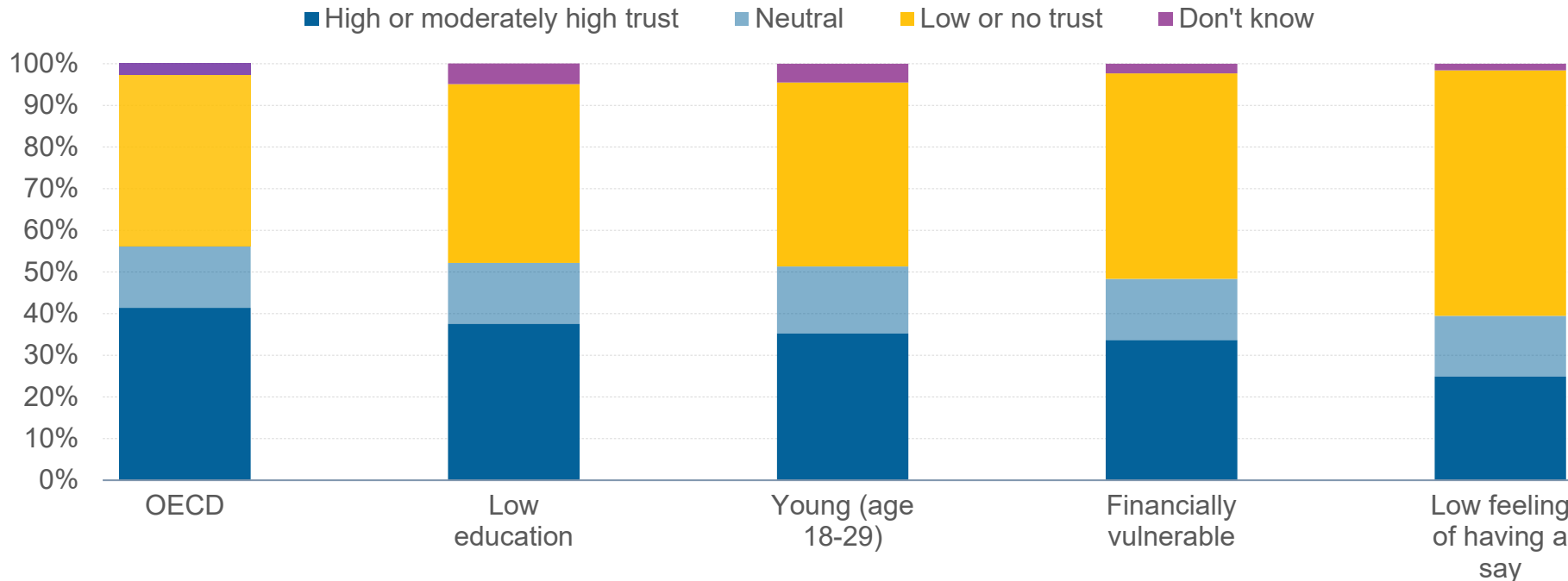
Building, Reinforcing and Protecting Democratic Resilience

Three priorities for governments to strengthen trust in government and reinforce democratic resilience:
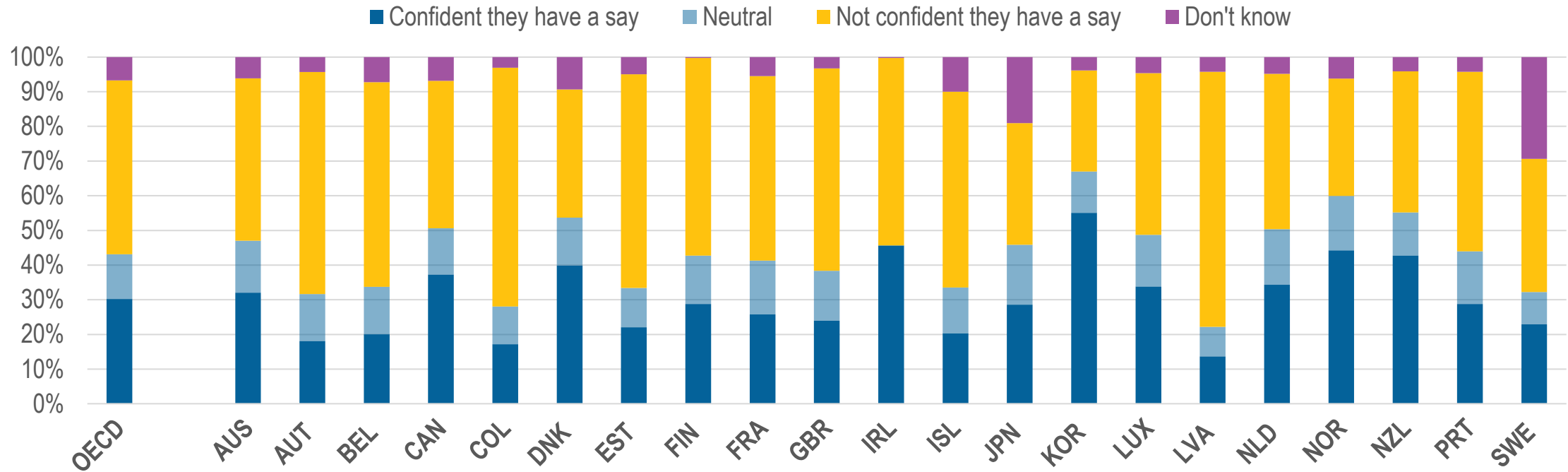
1. **Build** on democratic strengths such as citizen and stakeholder participation and representation;

2. **Reinforce** key governance competencies to support delivery in the context of multiple crises;

3. **Protect** against active threats to public trust arising from failings in public integrity and mis- or disinformation.

Half say the political system does not let them have a say in what the government does

Share of respondents reporting different levels of confidence that the political system lets them have a say in government decision making (0-10 scale), 2021


Legend: ■ Confident they have a say ■ Neutral ■ Not confident they have a say ■ Don't know

Categories: OECD, AUS, AUT, BEL, CAN, COL, DNK, EST, FIN, FRA, GBR, IRL, ISL, JPN, KOR, LUX, LVA, NLD, NOR, NZL, PRT, SWE
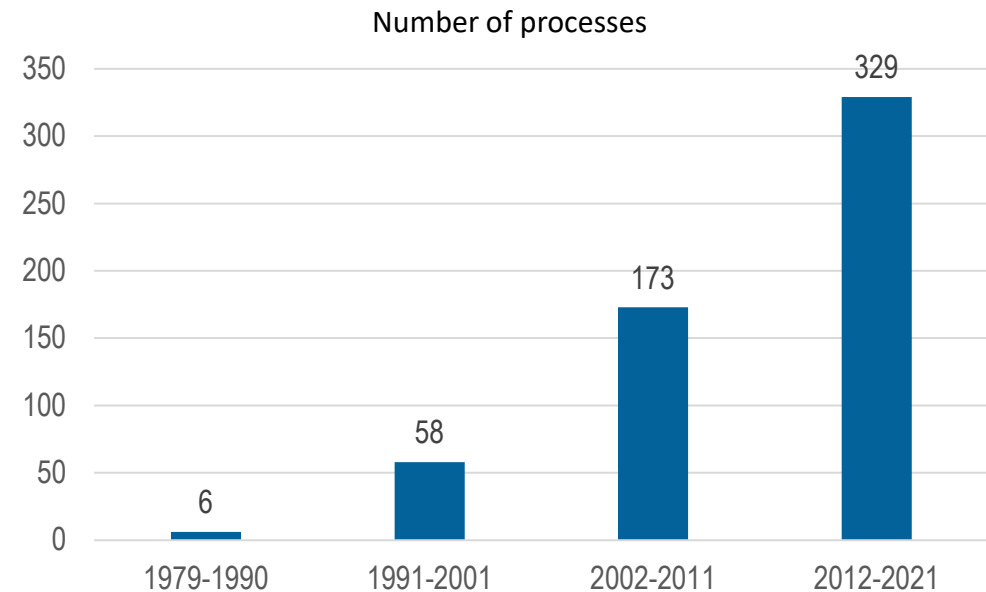
Source: Government at a Glance 2023

There has been limited improvement in **stakeholder engagement** in regulations

Stakeholder engagement on subordinate regulations, 2021

Index (0-4 maximum), OECD average

Only 16 countries slightly improved

- 2018: 2.11
- 2021: 2.12
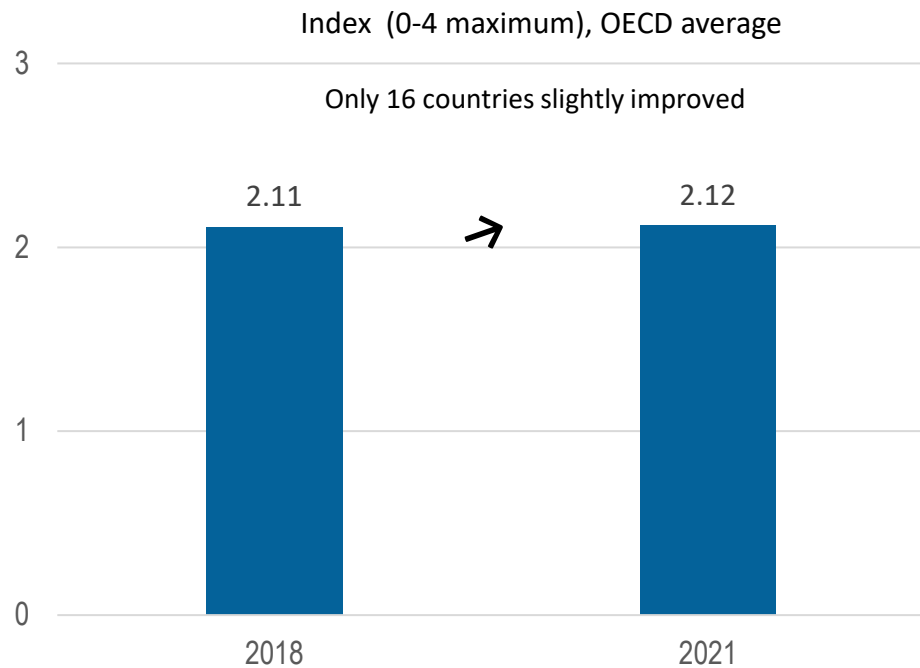
In the past 10 years, more processes **to give citizens a voice** are arising

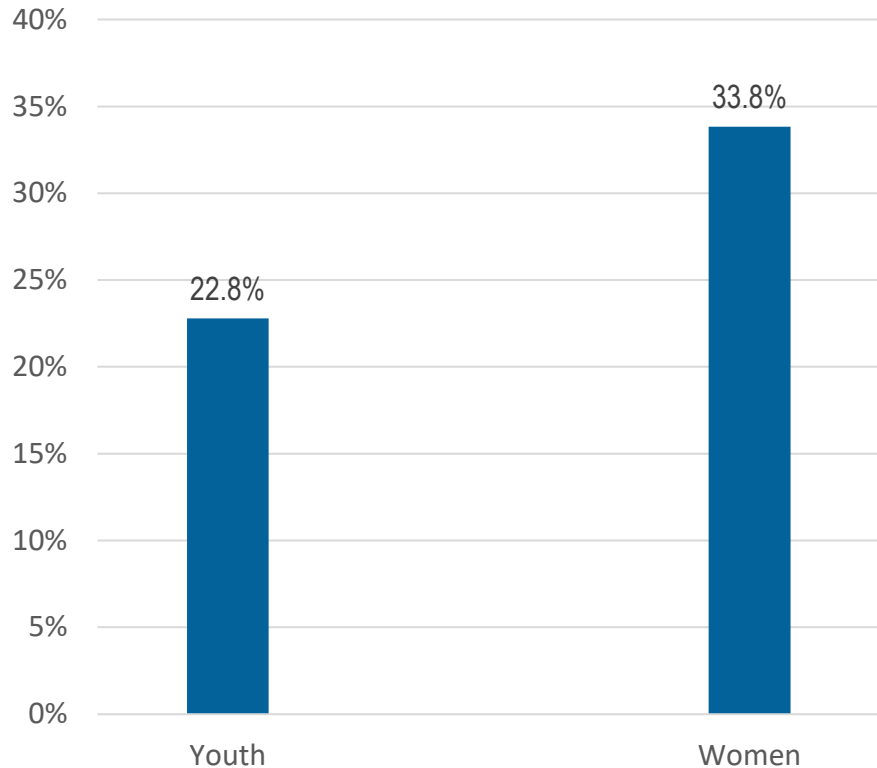**Number of deliberative processes in 24 OECD countries, 1979-2021**

Number of processes

- 1979-1990: 6
- 1991-2001: 58
- 2002-2011: 173
- 2012-2021: 329

Source::Government at a Glance 2023

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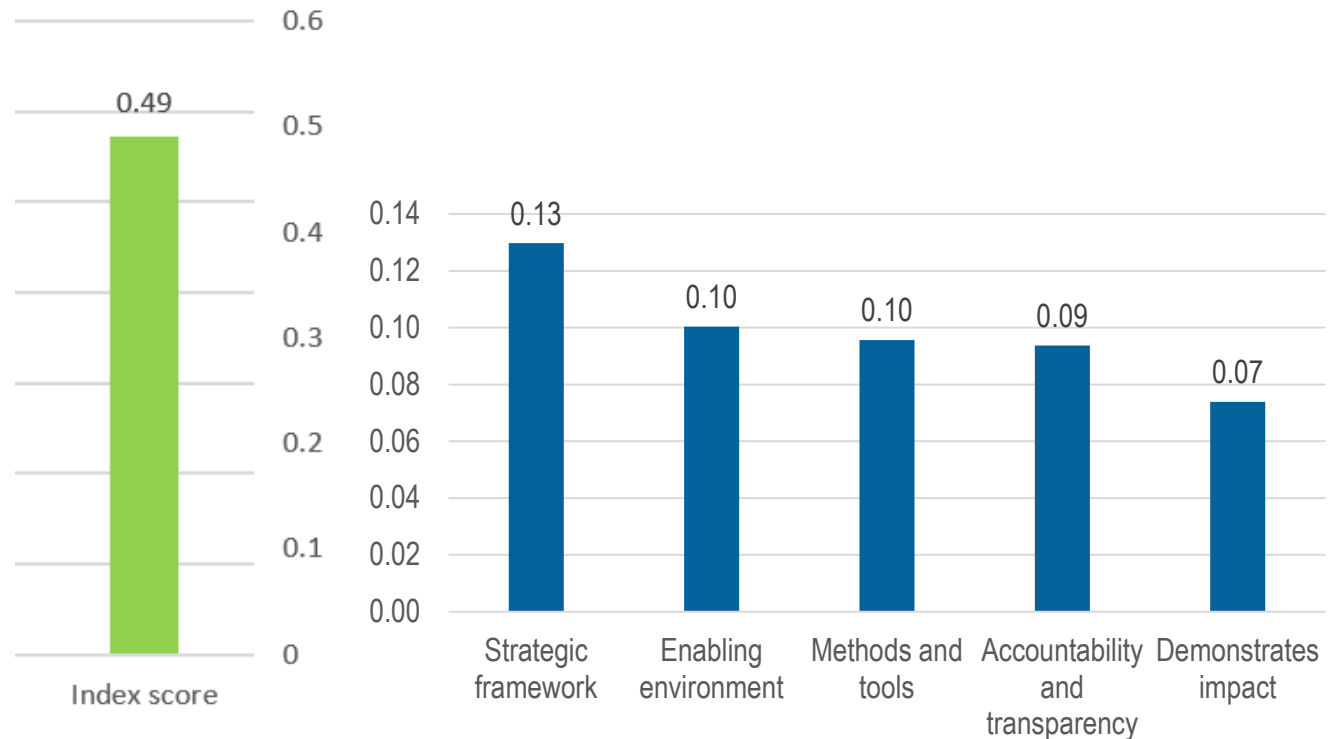## Women and young people remain underrepresented in politics

Youth and women representation in parliament

Governments are strengthening their tools to meet gender equality policy goals

OECD Gender Budgeting Index and its dimensions, 2022
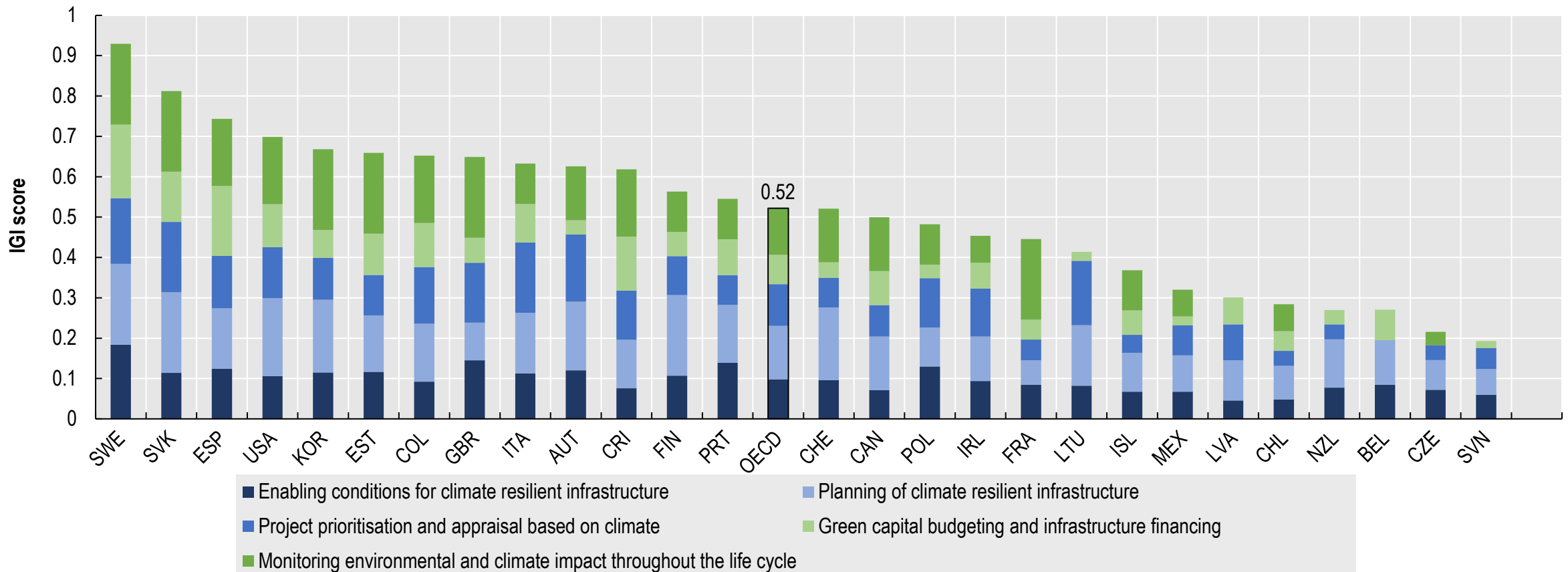Scale 0-1 (0.20 max for each subdimension)

Significant room for manoeuvre exists to strengthen the tools for Governing Green

OECD index on governance for greening infrastructure (0-1 max), 2022

Legend:
- Enabling conditions for climate resilient infrastructure
- Planning of climate resilient infrastructure
- Project prioritisation and appraisal based on climate
- Green capital budgeting and infrastructure financing
- Monitoring environmental and climate impact throughout the life cycle

How skills and staff were mobilised during the COVID crisis and the impact this may have in the future

Legend:
- Used heavily during the COVID-19 crisis
- Used lightly during the COVID-19 crisis
- ◆ Will likely be reused in case of special/emergency situation

Share of responding countries (N=35)

X-axis categories:
- Through temporary taskforces
- Through accelerated use of existing hiring procedures
- Through simplified short-term hiring procedures
- Through access to a pre-identified talent pool (surge reserve)
- Through retired public servants coming back from retirement

Only few OECD countries have **complete regulatory standards to prevent corruption** in lobbying, political finance and conflict of interest; even **fewer implement** them.
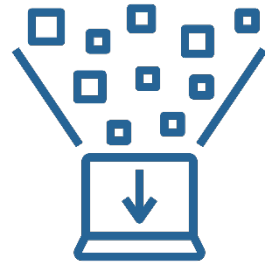
% of regulatory safeguards which exist and % which are fulfilled in practice (average across OECD countries)
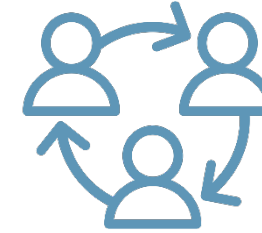
The Resource Hub will enable members to **exchange experiences** and learn from each other to develop a **networked response** to the challenges faced

Promote engagement and cooperation

Inform country actions

Collecting initiatives, tools and policies to help **benchmark governance efforts** and **inform appropriate and effective responses**

Strengthen information integrity and reinforce democracy

Collectively, the Resource Hub will define and guide implementation of a whole-of-society approach to help **counteract foreign interference, strengthen information integrity** and **reinforce democracies**
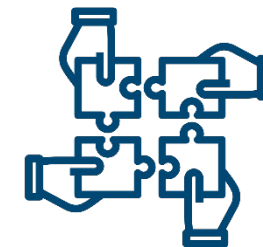
Conclusions

- Governments are **at the centre of managing crises and structural transitions** (demographic, green, digital, etc.);

- Strengthening **democratic resilience and trust in government** is key to ensuring administrations are able to respond to these challenges effectively.

- Governments should **build** on democratic strengths, **reinforce** competencies to manage crises, and **protect** against threats.

- Data play a key role in what democracies to best, to learn from their experiences, each other, real evidence, and citizens' views, continuously improve, and **build a better society for all**.

Thank you

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