



**G20 OECD-BNCT WORKSHOP: *Bioeconomy in the G20 and OECD countries: sharing and comparing the existing national strategies and policies for co-designing more effective Bioeconomy governance mechanisms and monitoring systems.***

**DATE AND VENUE: web meeting, Presidency of Council of Ministers, Rome  
July 16, 2021 (11.00-17.00)**

**ORGANIZERS: The “National Bioeconomy Coordination Board” of the National Committee of Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences of the Italian Presidency of Council of Ministers, the Italian Ministry for the Ecological Transition and OECD.**

## **RATIONALE**

The Bioeconomy encompasses the whole range of activities ranging from terrestrial and marine bioresource production to their processing towards food, feed, chemicals, materials and fuels. It provides a sustainable response to the need for food and bio-based materials and energy, and tools to address common goals: reducing the dependence on fossil fuels and finite feedstocks; preserving and restoring natural resources; and guaranteeing high-quality environmental services. Bioeconomy can be an effective accelerator for sustainable innovation, regenerating natural resources, marginal/desertified/abandoned lands and former industrial sites, and in the sustainable exploitation of marine and coastal areas, creating new economic growth and jobs in those areas, and leveraging geographic advantages and traditions. More than forty States worldwide currently pursue explicit political strategies to expand and promote their bioeconomies. Among them, there are nine European Countries along with Norway and other OECD G20 countries like Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Japan, South Africa, and the United States. Thus, Bioeconomy has already been adopted by a large number of middle and large size countries as a strategic path towards a sustainable, regenerative and healthier growth, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agreement. According to the European view, it is composing the “renewable pillar” of the Circular and the Green Deal Economy.

The available Bioeconomy strategies differ in definition, content focus and in policies, depending on the resources and priorities in each country. As an example, several countries measure Bioeconomy contributions in terms of value added and employment but ignore social and environmental criteria. Furthermore, GDP is often assessed as in terms of economic value only. This has several limitations, due to the inadequacy of the standard industrial classification systems for bio-based production and the lack of systematic data at national level. Finally, the COVID-19 crisis calls for a more sustainable society and economy to emerge from the crisis. This provides additional room for a sustainable Bioeconomy, but this further requires a more robust alliance among national strategies and governments at a global level.

Bioeconomies often lacking effective governances and a common framework to monitor progress in reaching the planned targets. Thus, there is the need to compare the existing Bioeconomy strategies,



objectives, policies, regulatory tools and monitoring actions. Such a comparison will help identify and co-design more robust governance tools and comprehensive Bioeconomy monitoring systems. These systems should be based on the three sustainability dimensions (social, economic and environmental) but also be cost-effective and easy to handle, and suitable for the large number of SMEs active in the Bioeconomy landscape. This would remarkably contribute to expand and boost sustainable Bioeconomy at the global level.

Set in the frame of the G20 initiatives, this workshop aims to address these needs. The workshop also contributes to the OECD Bio-, Nano- and Converging Technologies (BNCT) Working Party work programme on Bioeconomy and on the concept of carbon management, as an overarching policy framework in the green transition. The learnings from the workshop will be complemented by national case studies on carbon related technologies and sustainability indicators, to be presented and discussed at a workshop co-hosted by Norway in fall 2021 and in other OECD countries during the coming year. The workshop features speakers and participants from OECD member states, FAO and the EU Commission to share and compare several of the most prominent worldwide national Bioeconomy strategies and policies to develop more effective international Bioeconomy governance mechanisms and framework monitoring systems. An OECD policy document on the topics discussed will be prepared.

## **DRAFT AGENDA**

### **11.00 Opening section**

Chairs: Laura D'Aprile, G20 EDM Chair, Head of Department, IT Ministry of Ecological Transition & Andrea Lenzi, President of the "Biosafety, Biotechnology and Life Sciences National Committee" (CNBBSV) of the IT Presidency of Council of Ministers, Rome.

- Prof. Roberto Cingolani, Minister, Ministry of the Ecological Transition
- Prof. Maria Cristina Messa, Minister, Ministry of the University and Research
- Dr. Antonio Bernardini, Italian Ambassador at OECD & Ministry for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation
- Dr. Masamichi Kono, Deputy Secretary General, OECD
- Prof. Fabio Fava, Chair of "National Bioeconomy Coordination Board" (NBCB), CNBBSV, Italian Presidency of Council of Ministers

### **11.40 Session 1. Bioeconomy strategies in the different OECD Countries: comparison of their objectives, priorities, governance and implementation guidelines**

Chairs: Fabio Fava, NBCB, IT Presidency of Council of Ministers & David Winickoff, OECD BNCT

*Presentation of the main features of the Bioeconomy strategies existing in G20 and OECD Countries by:* Dalia Lewi (Argentina); Gottfried Lamers (Austria), Bruno Nunes (Brazil), Sandy Marshall (Canada), Sari Tasa (Finland), Andrea Noske (Germany), Maeve Henchion & Patrick Barrett (Ireland), Fabio Fava (Italy), Takahiro Ohno (Japan), Thomas Malla (Norway), Ben Durham (South Africa) and Jay Fitzgerald (USA).



Comments from the G20 and OECD delegations.

### **13.30 Break**

### **13.40 Session 2. Targets and monitoring tools, towards a common framework to monitor progress in the Bioeconomy**

Chairs: Danilo Porro, Italian Ministry of University and Research & Françoise Roure, Ministry of Economy and Finance, France & OECD BNCT

13.45 Peter Wehrheim, European Commission (DG RTD). *Deployment of bioeconomies across Europe and co-creating it across policy areas*

14.00 Giovanni De Santi, European Commission (JRC). *Monitoring the sustainability of the EU Bioeconomy.*

14.15 Maurizio Martina, FAO, Deputy Director General: *The FAO initiative “Towards Sustainable Bioeconomy Guidelines (SBG)”*

**14.30 Round table:** *Monitoring tools and indicators currently applied in the different G20 and OECD Countries: a first comparative assessment with the identification of the most reliable ones.* *Speakers-* Gottfried Lamers (Austria), Anthony Imbrogno (Canada), Sari Tasa (Finland), Andrea Noske (Germany), Maeve Henchion & Patrick Barrett (Ireland), Lucia Gardossi (Italy), Takahiro Ohno (Japan), Ben Durham (South Africa) and Jay Fitzgerald (USA).

Comments from the G20 and OECD delegations

A short summary on the outcomes of the panel: Lucia Gardossi, Rapporteur

**16.15** Ole J. Marvik, Norway OECD BNCT Delegate: *Carbon management; a potential policy framework integrating the Bioeconomy, carbon recycling and renewable energy.*

### **16.30 Conclusions and future actions**

Chair: Prof. Andrea Lenzi

On. Giancarlo Giorgetti, Minister, Ministry of the Economical Development

Dr. Antonio Bernardini, Italian Ambassador at OECD

Prof. Fabio Fava, Chair of NBCB, CNBBSV, Presidency of Council of Minister