



Costa Rica has become a member of the OECD

- **Organisation will seek to raise the quality of public management and to establish a culture of continuous improvement in the Costa Rican institutional framework and quality of public services.**
- **Secretary General of the OECD recognized Costa Rica's reform efforts to successfully achieve this goal.**
- **Costa Rica is the fourth Latin American country to join and the 38th member of this organisation.**
- **"Once again we show the world that Costa Rica strives for excellence and to conquer challenges regardless of how difficult they may seem, to achieve greater prosperity for its population," said the President of the Republic.**

On 25 May, Costa Rica officially concluded its accession process to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and became a Member, marking a historic milestone as part of the commemoration of its 200 years of independent life.

With the deposit of the instrument of ratification of the Accession Agreement to the OECD Convention before the French authorities, host country of the Organisation, Costa Rica becomes its thirty-eighth member and fourth country in Latin America to become part of this influential Organisation, which is key in international governance.

A rigorous technical process of evaluation, improvement, and adjustment of national public policies to the highest international standards has concluded. To this end, Costa Rican institutions have been engaged in this process since 2010 and executed the Accession Roadmap launched in 2015.

Even before its formal accession, Costa Rica has already reaped the benefits by building, with a great reformist spirit, a roadmap to address the country's long-due structural challenges. The process involved an important reform agenda in areas such as: competition, fight against corruption, waste management, statistics, good governance of its State-owned enterprises, and the strengthening of the financial system, among others.

The support of the OECD aims to raise the quality of public management and establish a culture of continuous improvement in Costa Rican institutions and better quality public services, through evidence-based recommendations aligned with international best practices.

Costa Rica will continue to be evaluated by the OECD and such evaluations will contribute to the accountability to the public on the commitments that were undertaken and pending tasks.



The President of the Republic, Carlos Alvarado, stated that “joining the OECD is a very important step to launch once again our reformist potential that has characterised us as a nation throughout these 200 years of independent life, which has led us to be pioneers in the adoption of cutting-edge public policies, thus generating well-being for our citizens”.

"Once again, we show the world that Costa Rica strives for excellence and to conquer challenges regardless of how difficult they may seem, to achieve greater prosperity for its population," he conveyed.

The Minister of Foreign Trade, Andrés Valenciano, highlighted the importance of the work carried out throughout the process by more than 40 Costa Rican institutions, under the leadership of COMEX.

“This historic milestone is only the beginning of a route of continuous improvement, accompanied by countries that have demonstrated to do so effectively and with whom we share aspirations of citizen-centered well-being. I have no doubt that the efforts and commitment we have shown in advancing on the reformist path will continue to be cornerstones to address the challenges we face; to improve competitiveness, public services and investment climate; to reduce social and digital gaps that afflict us; to improve our regulatory policy; to increase productivity; and to consolidate our road to development”, declared Valenciano.

Also, the OECD Secretary General, Angel Gurría, acknowledged: " We are delighted to welcome Costa Rica into the OECD family at a time when multilateralism is more important than ever. We have been impressed that the cross-party commitment to Costa Rica’s OECD membership that we witnessed during the accession process, continued into the ratification phase despite the pandemic. This reflects the importance of working together for designing and implementing better policies, and Costa Rica will no doubt represent a new beacon for the OECD in the region”.

Benefits of joining the OECD

Costa Rica’s accession to the OECD opens the door for participation in more than 300 technical committees and working groups encompassed within the organisation, across various areas of work, and in which Costa Rica will participate on the same terms as other Member countries.

Likewise, Costa Rican experts will have the opportunity to be part of top-level knowledge networks. This will enable not only learning from the experiences of other countries, but also shaping the discussions for the establishment of global standards on relevant issues such as taxation of the digital economy, climate change, global value chains, future of education, among others.

The OECD is known as the organisation of best practices. It bases its work on empirical evidence and is one of the most complete and reliable sources of statistical information worldwide. With its 60 years of existence, the OECD is nowadays one of the most influential organisations in the international governance.