



18 December 2025 – Governor Yuriko Koike Assumes Chairmanship of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative, with Mayor Stefano Lo Russo as Vice-Chair

As of 1 January 2026, Yuriko Koike, Governor of Tokyo, assumes the role of Chair of the OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth Initiative as the first Asian leader to guide the Initiative. Since its launch in 2016, the Initiative has empowered over 100 mayors worldwide to foster economic growth that benefits everyone by developing bold policies, sharing innovative solutions, and amplifying the voice of cities on the global stage. Governor Koike will lead the global coalition of mayors in close collaboration with Stefano Lo Russo, Mayor of Torino, who will serve as the new Vice-Chair. Together, they will advance the Initiative's vision to build economically competitive cities that support jobs, opportunities and well-being for all.

Governor Koike has been a driving force for inclusive growth in Tokyo – the largest city in the OECD – since taking office in 2016. Through bold policies – such as expanding childcare access, promoting female entrepreneurship, and advancing workplace equality – her administration has enabled a record number of women into work. At the same time, Governor Koike has positioned Tokyo as a global leader in climate resilience and disaster preparedness, notably issuing the world's first internationally certified resilience bond. Since joining the Champion Mayors coalition in 2017, Governor Koike has been one of its most prominent voices, helping to shape the Initiative's vision as part of the Steering Group.

Governor Koike said: *I am honoured to lead the OECD Champion Mayors Initiative. Cities feel climate, demographic, and resource pressures most acutely. Tokyo has met these challenges with forward-looking policies on women's empowerment, childcare, decarbonisation, sustainable urban development, transport, and entrepreneurship – underpinned by a strong focus on resilience and crisis preparedness to protect lives and livelihoods. By sharing these experiences with the world, connecting cities facing common challenges and elevating mayors' voices internationally, we will contribute to the safety and security of people around the globe.*

OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann commented: *"Mayors have a key role to play in tackling global challenges. From enhancing affordable housing access to seizing the opportunities of the digital transformation, Mayors help pioneer local innovations and drive economic growth. The OECD is committed to supporting their efforts and amplifying their voices on the global stage. Governor Koike Yuriko will bring valuable experience and a long-standing commitment to the Champion Mayors to take this initiative forward as Chair."*

The Initiative's knowledge partners and institutions are Bloomberg Philanthropies, the European Commission (DG REGIO), Cities Alliance, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), and United Way Worldwide.

For further information, please contact **OECD CFE Champion Mayors**: championmayors@oecd.org

Learn more about the [OECD Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth | OECD](#)