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Governance Research Brief · Edition 9 · 30 October 2026

EDITION IN BRIEF

AI computing, public budgets and the decisions behind delivery

AI Ambition and the Work of Government

Five recent publications from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) examine the public arrangements behind artificial intelligence (AI) computing, disaster costs, national budgets and integrity. The central question is how institutions secure the resources, information and authority needed to carry a commitment through.

Artificial intelligence computing

Dedicated computing pillar: 13 of 18 strategies (2025–26); 8 of 26 (2019–24).

The public cost of disasters

Survey evidence shows incomplete accounting for wider fiscal effects.

National plans and public budgets

Long-term priorities have weak links to budget allocations.

Conflicting departmental priorities

Consultation bodies have limited authority to settle policy conflicts.

Integrity beyond the capital

Eight of 14 Latin American and Caribbean countries include local collaboration in integrity plans.

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THE GOVERNING QUESTION

What still has to be settled after a public commitment

The computing review starts with a distinction between policy attention and usable capacity. A strategy can identify infrastructure as a priority while power, staffing and access arrangements remain unsettled. Public investment therefore involves decisions held by energy authorities, funders and operators as well as the sponsoring ministry. The review's strategy counts do not establish that those arrangements work.

Who will be able to use the computing capacity?

An investment proposal can specify equipment while leaving access prices, operating support and allocation unresolved. What evidence shows that the intended public institutions and researchers will be able to use it?

Which commitments have resources attached?

A published priority, an emergency allocation and a full fiscal cost describe different things. Can the budget record distinguish what is promised, what is funded and what the government may still have to meet?

Where does an unresolved disagreement go?

When consultation ends without agreement, which administrative or political authority can decide, and how will the institutions and people affected receive an answer?

> **Scope of the evidence**
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> The integrity figure measures action-plan commitments. The computing figures concern different strategy cohorts reviewed as of May 2026. Neither measures implementation or service performance.

Read the latest edition and source list