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GOVERNANCE | CLIMATE | PUBLIC SYSTEMS

Governance Research Brief · Edition 10 · 6 November 2026

Who can act on the evidence?

A regulator must be able to check an AI recommendation. A tax investigator must be able to trace company ownership. A public service must be reachable by the people it is meant to serve. Five new publications show what those duties require of government.

Imagine a medicines regulator reviewing a safety alert flagged by an AI tool. The official can see the recommendation, but only the supplier knows which version of the model produced it. Now consider a tax investigator who can lawfully request a company's ownership records but cannot establish who controlled it on the date in question. Both officials have work to do that the rules alone cannot make possible. They need records they can retrieve, powers they can exercise and another office that will answer when something goes wrong.

AI in regulatory decisions

Cross-border tax information

Migrant integration services

Regional measures of opportunity

Digital capacity and production

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AI IN REGULATORY DECISIONS

The regulator must be able to intervene

Center for Regulatory Science, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency, Japan · 2 November 2026
Regulatory principles

Basic Principles for the Use of AI in Regulatory Activities (Early Consideration)

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

Japan's medicines and medical devices agency sets out principles for AI used in activities involving regulatory judgement. It calls for validation in the intended setting, records of data sources and changes, continuing monitoring and arrangements that allow people to intervene. Responsibility for the judgement remains with people.

> **Scope of the evidence**
>
> These are principles, not measured effects or a Kenyan legal standard. The English translation is provisional; the Japanese original prevails.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Kenya	When a national regulator procures a tool to screen safety reports, the contract could require access to the model version and input record. A county reporting a suspected adverse event should have a route to correct the underlying record and receive a response.
Global South	Smaller regulators could share technical assessments across borders while retaining access to their own files and authority to suspend a use that performs poorly in their setting.
Wider significance	An official cannot take meaningful responsibility for a decision if a supplier alone can reconstruct how the recommendation was produced.

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CROSS-BORDER TAX INFORMATION

A tax request needs a retrievable record

Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, OECD · 3 November 2026
Phase 1 legal peer review

Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes: Congo 2026 (Second Round, Phase 1)

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The peer review of the Republic of the Congo identifies gaps in the availability of legal and beneficial ownership information, powers to obtain records, the network for exchanging information on request, and safeguards for incoming information. These are separate links in the handling of a tax request.

> **Scope of the evidence**
> Phase 1 assesses the legal and regulatory framework. It does not establish how well requests are answered in practice or quantify revenue forgone.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Kenya	A practical exercise between the tax authority and the registry would test whether an authorised request can recover the ownership position on a specified date, including changes since the original filing.
Global South	A small revenue authority can learn more from testing a few complete requests, including secure return and closure, than from counting signed agreements alone.
Wider significance	Cross-border transparency depends on both access and confidentiality. An authority must be able to establish who obtained the record, for which purpose and under what safeguards.

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MIGRANT INTEGRATION SERVICES

Who carries a case across offices?

OECD · 3 November 2026
Comparative institutional review

Integration Governance

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

This volume of Making Integration Work compares institutional arrangements for the integration of immigrants and their children in OECD countries. Its practical value lies in examining how integration policy is organised across the institutions that make rules and deliver support, drawing on country examples.

> **Scope of the evidence**
>
> Comparative examples are not causal estimates of a particular arrangement. Integration policies for migrants in OECD countries cannot be transferred wholesale to refugee hosting or internal displacement.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Kenya	Where documentation and service delivery meet, national offices and county providers can agree who handles an unresolved referral, how the person is informed and where a failed handover is escalated.
Global South	In places where municipalities, humanitarian agencies and ministries all provide support, an explicit handover can prevent a case from disappearing when a project closes or funding moves.
Wider significance	A measure of completed referrals, checked with the receiving office, offers a better view of co-ordination than a count of referrals sent.

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REGIONAL MEASURES OF OPPORTUNITY

Where people go for a service can matter more than where they live

OECD · 4 November 2026
Comparative regional indicators

OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2026

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The OECD compares outcomes and access across regions, cities and functional labour markets. Its innovation measures show concentration: the largest functional urban area led in patent share in 27 of 31 countries studied for 2019–2024. In a separate measure, one small region attracted more than half of national venture capital in 32 of 39 OECD and accession countries with data for 2020–2024.

> **Scope of the evidence**
> These measures have different samples and geographies. Neither measures AI adoption directly or establishes that concentration caused productivity growth.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Kenya	County boundaries are useful for budgets. For access to a specialised service or training centre, planners could also examine the catchment that people actually travel across and account for who funds the trips or referrals.
Global South	Public investment appraisals can test whether a proposed hub reaches businesses beyond the capital by looking at travel times and repeat use rather than drawing a circle around the site.
Wider significance	Territorial comparisons work best when their unit matches the policy question. Labour markets, service catchments and political jurisdictions answer different questions.

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DIGITAL CAPACITY AND PRODUCTION

A digital investment needs people who can use it

OECD, ECLAC, CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean, and European Commission · 4 November 2026
Regional economic outlook

Latin American Economic Outlook 2026: Deepening Integration into a Changing Global Economy

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS

The outlook argues that digital investment can serve productive development if connectivity and computing are matched with skills and institutions able to support firms. It describes digital and industrial programmes that have developed in separate ministries. Drawing on underlying sources cited in Figure 1.11, it reports basic digital skills for 45% of the region's population, intermediate skills for 22% and advanced skills for 14%.

> **Scope of the evidence**
>
> The skills measures are descriptive, not shares to add together. The regional outlook supplies neither a Kenyan estimate nor a projected return from a specific AI facility.

THE GOVERNANCE READING

Kenya	For a regional AI procurement or a county digitisation project, an appraisal could specify the workflow and staff needed to use the service, the cost of support and a workable exit route before committing to capacity.
Global South	Neighbouring countries considering shared computing can negotiate access, data handling and price review together. Domestic agencies still need staff who can verify what the service delivers.
Wider significance	International financing for digital infrastructure should be judged against actual use and the distribution of capability, alongside the assets financed.

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THE GOVERNING QUESTION

What each office must be able to do

Japan's regulator asks whether an official can intervene when a tool goes wrong. The Congo review asks whether an authority can obtain and protect the information it is entitled to request. The OECD's integration report brings the problem to the service counter: one office may take the details, but another must carry the case to a decision. The territorial reports ask where people can actually reach services and where firms have the skills to use new technology. These are separate tests of government. Each can change a practical choice: what to require in a contract, how to hand over a case or where to put an investment.

REFLECTIONS FOR POLICY WORK

Who can reconstruct a decision?

Before adopting AI in a consequential workflow, can the designated official retrieve the evidence, model version and review record, and intervene without waiting for the supplier?

Who follows a case to the next office?

For a tax request or service referral, which office verifies receipt and completion, who can recover a missing record and where does an unresolved case go?

Where can people actually reach the service?

Would the proposed funding or service location change if officials examined travel patterns, skill shortages and actual use rather than relying on an administrative average?

ORIGINAL PUBLICATIONS

Sources and publication dates

The research accounts report each publication's claims. The governance readings and synthesis are Ahmednadhir.com's analysis. These different forms of evidence do not establish a common measured effect on public services.

Basic Principles for the Use of AI in Regulatory Activities (Early Consideration)

Center for Regulatory Science, Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices Agency, Japan · 2 November 2026
Regulatory principles

https://www.pmda.go.jp/files/000283394.pdf

Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes: Congo 2026 (Second Round, Phase 1)

Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes, OECD · 3 November 2026
Phase 1 legal peer review

https://doi.org/10.1787/ecd16e8c-en

Integration Governance

OECD · 3 November 2026
Comparative institutional review

https://doi.org/10.1787/9d381d5e-en

OECD Regions and Cities at a Glance 2026

OECD · 4 November 2026
Comparative regional indicators

https://doi.org/10.1787/1fc64125-en

Latin American Economic Outlook 2026: Deepening Integration into a Changing Global Economy

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Regional economic outlook

https://doi.org/10.1787/83a299be-en

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