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The OECD was created in 1961 as a forum for discussion and consultation on matters of economic, trade, and development assistance policies. Over time its membership has grown to 24 (including all of Western Europe, plus Australia, New Zealand, Japan, the USA, and Canada), and its work has also spread into a variety of other important areas including environmental policies, energy, manpower and social affairs, education, and science and technology policy. Canada is a founding member of the OECD, and is an active participant in virtually all its programmes and activities. Canada's Minister of Finance, the Honourable D. M. Fleming, chaired the first OECD Ministerial Meeting in 1961.