

Dr Ursula Wellen is the OECD's first Head of Ethics, where she took up her functions in March 2020.

Before, Dr Wellen served as the Principal Advisor, Ethics at the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In her role, she lead the UNICEF Ethics Office, covering ethics and standards of conduct for UNICEF's over 15,000 staff worldwide. During her tenure with UNICEF, she put a particular emphasis on organisational culture, with the mandate of cultivating and nurturing a culture of ethics and integrity organisation-wide. While leading the UNICEF Ethics Office, she also held the positions of vice-chair of the Ethics Network of the Multilateral Organizations and Alternate Chair of the Ethics Panel of the United Nations..

Dr Wellen is specialized in the law of the international civil service and previously held positions of increasing seniority in international institutions such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (Chief Counsel), the OECD (Senior Legal Advisor), the International Monetary Fund (Counsel), and the United Nations (Associate Legal Officer). Prior to her carrier in the international civil service, Dr Wellen was admitted to the bar in Germany (Rechtsanwältin) and worked for several years as Senior Associate with the international law firm Allen & Overy LLP, helping to establish their Frankfurt office.

She holds a Doctorate Degree in International Law from the University of Mannheim, a Master's Degree in International Law from the London School of Economics, and a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the Harvard John F. Kennedy School of Government.

In her independent and impartial role as the Head of Ethics at OECD, Dr Wellen is responsible for monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of the ethics framework, promoting awareness of ethical standards and advising staff at all levels as well as the Secretary-General on the ethical standards of the Organisation. She also oversees OECD's recently reinforced Whistleblower Protection Policy by receiving, and has the mandate to make determinations and recommendations, on allegations of retaliation.