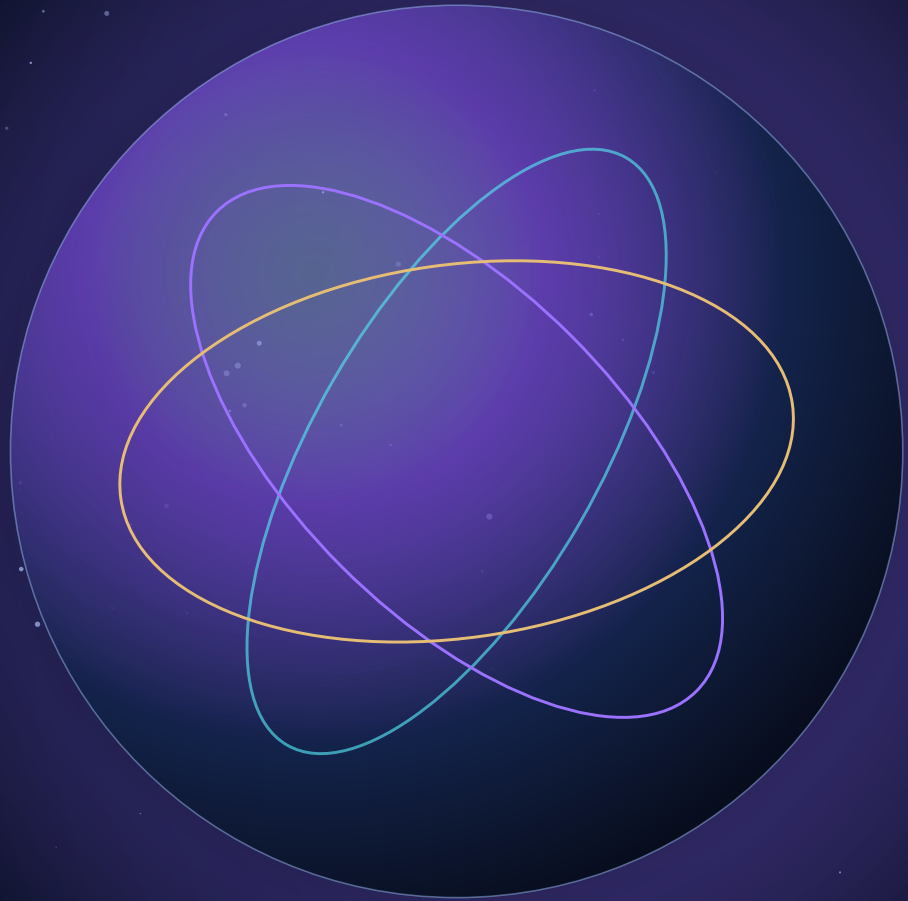




◆ OBSERVATORY ANALYSIS

The OECD Adopts a Recommendation on Quantum Technologies

Quantum governance enters the formal instruments of international policy

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Abstract

Quantum governance enters the formal instruments of international policy, adding a multilateral layer to the national strategies that shape access to frontier computation. Development: 28 May 2026 · OECD · OECD/LEGAL/0508 · International policy instrument.

KEYWORDS Quantum Observatory · policy · L5

The OECD Adopts a Recommendation on Quantum Technologies

The result

On 28 May 2026 the OECD Council adopted a Recommendation on Quantum Technologies, registered as OECD/LEGAL/0508 [1]. OECD Recommendations are not legally binding, but they express a political commitment by adhering governments and frequently shape national policy and international standards.

What it establishes

Until now, quantum policy has been written mainly at national level. The OECD's 2025 overview documented how widely national quantum strategies have spread [2], and UNESCO's 2026 report frames quantum technology as a question of global development and access [3]. A Council Recommendation is the first step from parallel national strategies toward shared international principles for the governance of the technology.

Position in the Civilizational Compute Stack

L5, institutions. It belongs to the institutional layer that, under the constraint-migration hypothesis, becomes the binding constraint as quantum capability matures.

Why it matters

Access to frontier computation is becoming a component of sovereignty. International instruments influence who may cooperate with whom, how research security and export controls are framed, and whether access to quantum infrastructure is treated as a matter of open science or of strategic advantage. The content of such instruments, and the gap between commitments and practice, will shape the geography of the quantum age.

The open question

Which adhering governments translate the Recommendation into concrete measures on access, research security and skills, and on what timeline?

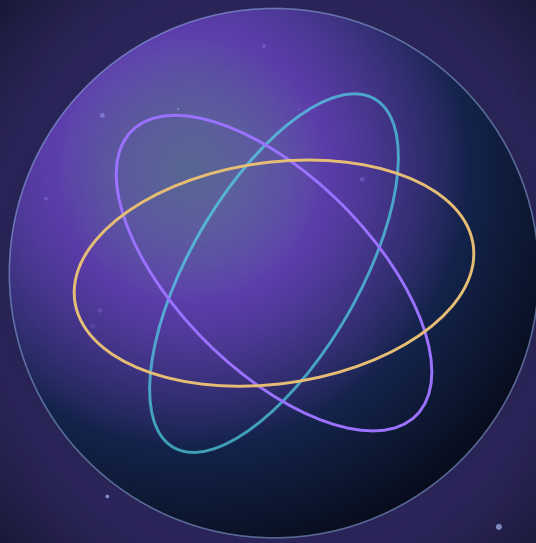
Signposts

National strategies citing the Recommendation; OECD implementation reporting; alignment or divergence between the OECD approach and export-control regimes.

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Physics will decide what becomes computable.
Institutions will decide what becomes of it.