

OECD MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT MINISTERIAL LEVEL

Statement of the Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, Marta Dassù, at the session devoted to the “OECD PARTNERS AND STRATEGY ON DEVELOPMENT”

- Italy, at the MCM 2012, strongly supported the decision of the OECD to pursue an holistic Development Strategy, concentrating in areas where the Organization brings a recognised added value.
- One year later, where are we with the implementation of this complex and multifaceted endeavour? We recognize progresses in mainstreaming the Strategy across the Organization and in fostering joint exercises across policy communities on horizontal themes, like tax and development; agriculture and development; investments and development; climate change and development. Also the initial work in areas like repatriation of stolen assets or in curbing illicit capital flows and other financial crimes is commendable. At the same time more effort should be made in order to favour a real trickle down of the principles of the Strategy in the ordinary life of relevant OECD Committees outside the Development Cluster of the Organization.
- One area of focus of the OECD Development Strategy which is particularly important for us is the aspect of food security which entails also important “political” implications, like the recent North African events have clearly shown. Italy will devote to this pivotal subject the EXPO 2015 in Milan around the issue of: “Feeding the Planet, energy for life”.
- Coming to the implementation, we acknowledge the interest of several knowledge sharing exercises which are underway. In particular we appreciate the idea of launching – upon request by interested developing countries – some pilot Multidimensional Country Reviews. We support also the idea of knowledge sharing initiatives aiming at addressing common challenges faced by commodity-based economies or at helping developing countries to better integrate into Global Value Chains.
- Which is, in our opinion, the real value added that the OECD can bring in the interaction with developing economies? We believe that this Organization is well equipped to identify the best practices on public policies; to build up

institutional capacity; to promote knowledge sharing. All in all, it should focus on increasing the soft power of a "framework organization"

- This is crucial also in the dialogue of the OECD with the Key Partners who are not any longer developing countries but new economies and new Partners, with their own criteria and approaches in dealing with the developing world.

How to devise a common strategy for development, able to involve in a truly Global Partnership traditional OECD members and new powerful emerging economies, is a key challenge for global governance.