



## **Communiqué for the High Level Meeting, 1 March 2012**

### **50 years of the Development Centre**

We welcome the Development Centre's commitment and contribution to development over the last 50 years. Development remains a high priority for us all: tackling development gaps is part and parcel of international efforts to promote strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

During these 50 years, the Centre has created a space for high-level dialogue on an equal footing between OECD members and developing and emerging economies. In the last 10 years in particular, the representation of developing and emerging economies on the Centre's Governing Board has increased substantially, strengthening this dialogue function. In line with the Centre's Membership Strategy, we encourage, in particular, OECD countries which are not members to join the Centre.

As well as engaging with governments, the Centre has provided a space for key stakeholders in the development debate to convene and discuss. In this respect, we recognise the value of the Centre's networks of private sector enterprises, think tanks and development finance institutions.

Rigorous analysis and evidence have always underpinned the Centre's policy dialogue activities. We recognise the importance of the Centre's regional Economic Outlooks and its Perspectives on Global Development report in this respect.

### **The Development Centre looking forward**

The world has changed fundamentally since the Centre was created 50 years ago. Many developing countries have experienced remarkable growth and made huge progress in poverty reduction. Their stories highlight that there is no single development model, trajectory or recipe and this forces us to re-think our conceptual framework on growth and development.

The emergence of new growth engines creates new opportunities for other developing countries and for OECD countries alike. Meanwhile, in an increasingly interconnected world, transnational development challenges increasingly call for better government capacity to respond to global policy issues and better management of global public goods and "bads".

As the Centre embarks on the next 50 years, we ask that its work contribute to the efforts of developing and emerging economies as they define their own national development strategies in this more interconnected world. We therefore call on the Centre to continue its analysis of global development issues through its Perspectives on Global Development series and the analysis through its regional Economic Outlooks. The Centre's work should help identify the binding constraints to development through multi-sectoral analysis at the country-level and support knowledge sharing between countries facing similar structural challenges.

Due attention should be given to adequately identifying demand from developing countries. In this respect, we believe that the Global Forum on Development should be strengthened as one of the mechanisms for continuous dialogue with a wide range of developing countries. Continuing its role as a convenor of different types of stakeholders, the Centre should convene OECD and emerging and developing country actors from the private sector, think tanks and foundations.

We recognise the specificity of developing countries, their institutions and their stage of development. Policy analysis, therefore, needs to take into account what policies will work in practice, ensuring that growth is inclusive, that people are lifted out of poverty, and that the emerging middle class becomes established.

We have discussed the current draft of the OECD Strategy on Development and look forward to the specific contributions that the Development Centre can make.