



OECD Development Centre 4th High-level Meeting of the Governing Board

3 October 2017

Communiqué

1. We, Members of the OECD Development Centre, met under the co-chairmanship of Argentina and Cabo Verde to address important issues on the international development agenda and to set strategic directions for the Development Centre, specifically in the areas of *Development in Transition*, *Migration and Development*, and *Gender Equality* as core policy areas to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda. We also acknowledged the progress made within the Policy Dialogue on *Natural Resource-based Development*. We reaffirmed the Centre's value-added and unique role in the international architecture as a platform for analysis and policy dialogue on an equal footing amongst countries at different stages of development.
2. We welcomed the achievements since our last High-Level Meeting (HLM) in 2016. These include: the launch of a policy dialogue on migration and development; the progress on the Centre's Africa Initiative; the increasing demand for multi-dimensional country reviews (MDCRs), the launch of a mutual learning group on MDCRs and their further alignment to the SDGs; the launch of Production Transformation Policy Reviews and of the International Economic Forum on Asia; the Centre's strengthened engagement in the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Programme and in its co-management of the Latin America and Caribbean one; the adoption of a new Membership and Outreach Strategy, to ensure existing and future Members participate effectively in the Centre's work and enhance its global relevance; and Paraguay's accession. We strongly encourage other countries to join, including OECD Members that are currently not Members of the Development Centre, and to use the Centre's tools and knowledge-sharing through policy dialogues.
3. Under *Development in Transition*, we welcomed the significant progress made by several developing countries in increasing their per-capita incomes and reducing poverty and underlined the positive contribution of international co-operation. Acknowledging the benefits of the process, we analysed the main challenges countries face as they move across levels of income (Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low Income Countries, Middle Income Countries, High Income Countries), including: the often slow pace of economic convergence; entrenched inequalities and problems of social cohesion, pockets of poverty and vulnerable middle-classes; limited structural transformation and sluggish productivity growth; persistent regional disparities; and weak institutional capacities and domestic resource mobilisation (all phenomena often described as "middle-income trap"). We agreed that income-based metrics only partially capture the extent and complexity of these development challenges and that a broad set of well-being indicators is needed to assess progress and needs. We recognised the strong need to fill knowledge gaps on the consequences of transitioning to higher income levels, on the policy priorities to overcome the challenges associated with that transition as well as on the contribution of international co-operation to sustained transition. We agreed that the Development Centre is well-positioned to help assess the state of development conditions in countries and their multiple development objectives and trajectories, investigate with relevant stakeholders possible development and well-being indicators beyond income, explore new tools and frameworks for co-operation better adapted to the needs of countries in transition, and provide a multi-stakeholder

dialogue platform. We asked the Development Centre to actively engage with member and non-member countries, international organisations and other relevant actors to address these knowledge gaps and advance the *Development in Transition* agenda. Acknowledging the respective commitments of the international community to address the needs of LDCs, our goal is to translate “development in transition” into “development in action”, which expands opportunities for all countries and people.

4. We exchanged on our efforts to deal with the complex interactions between *Migration and Development*, emphasised the importance of addressing the interrelations between migration and other public policies and agreed on the need to promote greater policy and institutional coherence. In this respect, we welcomed the Centre’s work and the outcomes of the first Policy Dialogue on Migration and Development. We acknowledged the relevance of the Dashboard of indicators for measuring policy and institutional coherence for migration and development, developed jointly by the Development Centre, the UNDP and the WBG, within the Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development (KNOMAD). The Dashboard is a useful tool to measure the extent to which public policies and institutional arrangements are coherent with international best practices to minimise the risks and maximise the development gains of migration. We encourage both origin and destination countries to explore the use of the Dashboard and engage in the Policy Dialogue on Migration and Development to exchange on good practices on policy coherence. We further encourage the partners behind the Dashboard to explore synergies, complementarities and co-operation with other similar tools.
5. We shared our approaches to promote gender equality and women’s economic empowerment. We agreed on the importance of tackling discriminatory social norms and institutions to advance the SDGs and the prominence of the Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) in this work. The Centre’s analysis shows the significant negative impact of discriminatory norms and institutions on economic growth and well-being, and the importance of further investing in data, evidence and dialogue. We welcomed the inclusion of the SIGI amongst the official sources to track progress on SDG 5. We look forward to deeper co-operation between the Development Centre and the OECD, notably through the Policy Dialogue on Women’s Economic Empowerment and to engage in this dialogue to share good practices and advance the implementation of SDG 5 nationally and internationally. Acknowledging the importance of tackling education and skills gaps, we welcomed the Centre’s inclusion in the G20 *eskills4girls* initiative.
6. We recalled the useful contributions of the Centre’s two policy dialogue initiatives: one on Global Value Chains, Production Transformation and Development and the other on Natural-Resource based Development in terms of knowledge-sharing and identifying good practices. We adopted a Policy Statement on Natural Resource-based Development (attached) and welcomed the Centre’s contribution to the G7 CONNEX Initiative.
7. We took note of the progress made in advancing our Initiative with Africa and invited the Development Centre to continue deepening its work on and with the continent, furthering partnerships with the African Union and NEPAD and regional organisations such as ECOWAS. We welcomed the organisation of the first International Economic Forum in Asia in Tokyo, focusing on “quality infrastructure”. We invited the Centre to expand its engagement in the OECD Regional Programme on Southeast Asia, notably through its regional Economic Outlook, and to further engage with the South Eastern Europe, Eurasia and MENA regions.
8. We agreed to ask the Centre to enhance our understanding and inform our debate and strategies on development on the topics we addressed. Specifically, we invite the Centre to:
 - ◆ *Development in Transition:*
 - Contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of and measurements for development by leveraging existing initiatives, such as the OECD’s well-being framework and the MDCRs, to

assess the appropriate indicators of the level of development and how best to capture countries' development trajectories, within the framework of Agenda 2030.

- Develop a platform on Development in Transition, open to member and non-member countries, international organisations and other relevant actors, leveraging synergies and avoiding duplications, to discuss the implications of developing countries' transitions to higher income levels and approaches to address them. In 2019, report back with proposals to adapt domestic and international co-operation efforts to overcome the middle-income challenges and to build a box of tools on sustainable development transitions, while respecting the mandate of the relevant bodies to define criteria for ODA and graduations.
- Pursue innovative partnerships and leverage the Governing Board as a platform to exchange knowledge and best practices – including for low-income and least developed countries – and advance matchmaking co-operation initiatives to support transition in a more systematic, flexible and sustainable manner.

◆ *Migration and development*

- Foster discussions between member and partner countries, especially through the Policy Dialogue on Migration and Development, on how to enable the positive contribution of migration to sustainable development in all its dimensions, including remittances and return, to implement Agenda 2030 and its migration-related goals and indicators for countries of origin, transit and destination, and to ensure coordination with other international processes, including the Global Forum on Migration and Development.
- Develop the work on policy and institutional coherence and promote the use of the Dashboard of indicators to help countries of origin, transit and destination reach greater policy coherence.
- Analyse the role that international co-operation can play in the governance of international migration and in facilitating or mitigating migration; enrich the discussions regarding the implementation and follow-up of the Global Compact on Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration and its effects on migration and development; deepen the understanding of the economic contribution of international migrants and refugees in developing countries as countries of destination and the benefits of their reintegration in the countries of origin related to possible brain drain; develop analytical tools, such as Migration and Development Policy Reviews, to help member and partner countries and regional organisations enable the contribution of migration to development.

◆ *Gender and development*

- Establish an informal network of SIGI national focal points amongst members and interested OECD countries to enhance data collection and the impact of the Centre's work on discriminatory social norms and institutions.
- Leverage the SIGI to inform the Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment.
- Deepen the Centre's engagement with UN institutions, regional economic commissions and development banks for tracking SDG 5 and for the Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment.

◆ *Natural resource-based development*

- Deepen knowledge on good practices on shared value creation from extractive projects; develop principles for contracts in the extractive sector, in partnership with CONNEX; contribute to understanding the sources of revenue leakages, including through the work on commodity trading transparency; explore ways to develop synergies between sustainable management of renewable and non-renewable natural resources for countries' long-term development.