

OECD Development Centre Fifth High-level Meeting of the Governing Board

Development for all: the role of domestic and international policies

Communiqué

1. We, Members of the OECD Development Centre, met under the co-chairmanship of Côte d'Ivoire, China, Spain and Uruguay and the theme of “*Development for All: The role of domestic and international policies*”. We discussed the role of social policies and social protection systems in building inclusive development trajectories and other important issues on the international development agenda, notably Development in Transition, and set the Centre’s strategic directions.
2. We reaffirmed the Centre’s value-added and unique role in the OECD and in the international architecture. We welcomed the Centre’s achievements since our last High-Level Meeting (HLM) in 2017 on [Development in Transition](#). These include: the evidence and policy recommendations from the projects on [Youth Inclusion](#), [Migration](#) and [Social Protection](#); the release of the [Social Institutions and Gender Index \(SIGI\) 2019](#); the results of the second policy dialogue on Migration and Development; the establishment of a [Thematic Dialogue on Commodity Trading Transparency](#) within the Policy Dialogue on Natural-Resource-based Development; the increased coverage and impact of the [Tax Revenue Statistics](#) reports; the progress with the Centre’s [Africa Initiative](#) and deepening engagement with the African Union, notably through the *Africa’s Development Dynamics* report and support for the African Observatory for Migration and Development; the Economic Outlooks [on China, India and Southeast Asia](#) and on [Latin America and the Caribbean](#), including stronger engagement with regional institutions and the respective OECD Regional Programmes; the increasing demand for and impact of [Production Transformation Policy Reviews \(PTPRs\)](#) within the Initiative on Global Value Chains, Production Transformation and Development and of [Multi-dimensional Country Reviews \(MDCRs\)](#); and the adoption of the 2019-20 Programme of Work and Budget. We also discussed and acknowledged the progress made within our subsidiary body – the *Mutual Learning Group on MDCR*, the Centre’s policy dialogue networks and their relations with the Governing Board.
3. We look forward to the conclusion of the In-Depth Evaluation of the Board and subsequent development of an action plan to address the Evaluation’s recommendations, as well as reflect on members’ discussions on ways to enhance the effectiveness, relevance and impact of the Development Centre and its Governing Board. This will allow to further consolidate the Development Centre and its Governing Board as an inclusive platform for countries at different stages of development to interact on an equal footing through analysis, policy dialogue and exchanges of experience.
4. We warmly welcomed our new Members -- Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Rwanda and Togo -- and look forward to their active engagement and the added value they will bring to the Centre’s activities and discussions. As we implement our Membership and Outreach Strategy, we will emphasise achieving greater regional balance and engagement, particularly with OECD countries that are not Members of the Centre, Asia, South Eastern Europe and Least Developed Countries.

5. We welcomed advancing the *Development in Transition* approach to support countries' transitions to sustainable development and the partnerships established in this area with member countries, the UN regional economic commissions and other strategic partners, such as the European Commission. We particularly noted the Centre's engagement in the EU Regional Facility for Development in Transition in Latin American and the Caribbean and the progress in filling knowledge gaps on: measuring multi-dimensional development indicators and the relationship between growth and well-being; identifying policy priorities to overcome development challenges and translate income transitions into broad-based gains; and adapting international co-operation efforts to help countries address those challenges. We recognised the importance of analysing regional development dynamics and the value of partnering with the UN regional economic commissions. We valued the role and contribution of South-South and Triangular Co-operation to sustainable development transitions and welcomed the [Outcome Document](#) of the Second High-level UN Conference on South-South Co-operation (BAPA+40).
6. We exchanged on efforts to build development for all, tackling poverty, vulnerability and inequalities. We stressed the multi-dimensional nature of development, the transversal nature of gender and environment, and the importance of further aligning national strategies and policies and international cooperation with the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We acknowledged that the pathways to development are manifold and the benefits are many of sharing knowledge, lessons learned and experiences on inclusive development. We emphasised the role of policy choices and the shared responsibility of public and private sectors in shaping inclusive growth outcomes and development trajectories. A country's economic structure, institutions and inclusion in the global economy are linked to outcomes in terms of productivity, job creation and levels of equality and cohesion. We stressed the role of adequate domestic resource mobilisation, sound and effective public expenditure management, and responsive institutions, amongst other measures to deliver quality public goods and services and stronger tax morale and an overall social contract. We also highlighted the relevance of a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral system to address inequalities and achieve the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.
7. We recalled that social protection is a basic human right and acknowledged that universal social protection plays a crucial role in reducing poverty and inequality and promoting human development. We underlined the particular challenges of informality, including defining and measuring it. We welcomed the Centre's on-going work on Key Indicators of Informality based on Individuals and their Household (KIIBIH) as a tool to better understand informality and inform appropriate responses. Appropriate modalities are necessary to expand social protection coverage that recognises the diversity of informal economy workers and provides them with fair, efficient and sustainable solutions. In this respect, we:
 - welcomed the results of the *Social Protection Systems Programme*, made possible by the EU, the Development Centre and the Government of Finland; two key studies: *Tackling Vulnerability in the Informal Economy* and *Can Social Protection be an Engine for Inclusive Growth?*; we acknowledged the outcomes and [Call to Action](#) of the 2019 High-Level Conference [Together to Achieve Universal Social Protection by 2030 and the Global Partnership for Universal Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals \(USP2030\)](#);
 - endorsed a Policy Statement in line with the USP 2030 Call to Action with key principles on advancing Universal Social Protection annexed to this Communiqué and called upon all countries to live up to their commitments to develop nationally owned social protection systems, including social protection floors, coherently with the 2030 Agenda and the relevant SDGs (notably SDG 1.3, 3.8, 5.4, 8.b and 10.10.4).
8. We agreed that the Development Centre is well-positioned to identify and assess further the consequences of transitions to higher income levels, notably concerning social policies and their financing, and to explore international co-operation modalities that are well-suited to ensuring the sustainability of, for example, social policies and social protection systems, as well as to serve as a platform for dialogue on this issue. We noted and encouraged further collaboration of the Development Centre with OECD Bodies and Directorates, particularly those working on development. We stressed the importance of international co-operation to help countries advance

their national development strategies on social inclusion. As more and more actors engage in international co-operation and expand its scope, new opportunities for sustainable development arise, requiring increased mutual understanding, sharing policy experiences and co-ordinating amongst actors. Hence, we reaffirmed the value of a multilateral system that includes countries at all levels of development and advances the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by providing global public goods and support for nationally-owned strategies and taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development while respecting national policies and priorities. We recognised the specific challenges and needs of developing countries, least developed countries (LDCs), Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDC). We agreed that the SDGs facilitate increased co-ordination and alignment for supporting social protection systems and beyond. National development strategies should adequately reflect the multi-dimensionality of well-being and be aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs and serve as a platform for dialogue with partners. These strategies need to be backed by sustainable integrated national financing frameworks that provide, inter alia, adequate resources for strengthening statistical, monitoring and evaluation capacities.

9. We recalled that broader structural transformation for quality job creation is necessary for inclusive development. In this respect, we value the Centre's work on production transformation, including for natural resource-dependent economies, and on quality infrastructure and intermediary cities. We encourage the Centre to deepen its engagement with relevant regional partners, notably in Africa, Asia and Latin America.
10. We look forward to the results of the High-Level Dialogue with Africa, as part of the Centre's Africa Initiative and as a contribution to the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD7) co-organised by Japan, the United Nations, United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank and the African Union Commission. This dialogue engages public and private sectors in enhancing connectivity to enable Africa's economic transformation. We will deepen our engagement with the continent and invite the Centre to advance its partnerships with the African Union and regional organisations, notably on tackling vulnerability in the informal economy and on financing public policies in Africa, including social policies and infrastructure.
11. We agreed to ask the Centre to enhance our understanding, inform our debates and strategies on development on the topics we addressed, and continue advancing its core areas of work as outlined in the PWB 2019-20 in collaboration, where appropriate, with other relevant OECD bodies and Directorates working on development or the Development Cluster. As outlined in the PWB, we look forward to holding up to two HLM per biennium to address key issues and increase the relevance, structuring and predictability of the Centre's work. Specifically, we invite the Centre to:

Inclusive societies and informality

- Foster discussions between member and partner countries, including exploring a Policy Dialogue on Social Protection, to find innovative solutions on designing, expanding and financing social protection systems.
- Deepen work on vulnerability and informality to better measure and understand the nature and heterogeneity of the informal economy in different countries and relevant policy solutions. In particular: (a) engage with statistical offices to enhance data collection for the KIIBIH indicators; (b) partner with UN agencies and Regional Economic Commissions, the African Union, ASEAN and other relevant actors to support statistical capacities related to social protection (SDG 1.3), disability inclusion, gender equality and the role of social norms (SDG 5), and the migration-development nexus (SDG 10 and 17); and (c) launch an initiative on tackling informality and advancing well-being across regions, with an initial focus on Latin America.

Financing of public policies, infrastructure and cities

- Foster discussions on good practices related to resource mobilisation and the financing of public policies, notably for quality infrastructure and social protection, including through a dialogue with the African Union and other partners and stakeholders.
- Promote a deeper understanding of quality infrastructure through dedicated dialogues amongst members and with other stakeholders from Africa, Asia and Latin America and others.
- Advance knowledge on intermediary cities for rural-urban linkages, structural transformation and inclusive development, and develop policy advice for territorial development strategies.

Development in Transition

- Actively engage the Members of the Governing Board, relevant international organisations, notably the UN regional commissions, in a policy dialogue to analyse the role national policies and international co-operation, including South-South and Triangular cooperation, play in shaping developing countries' inclusive growth and sustainable development transitions and the consequences that the attainment of higher levels of income have on their national development strategies.
- Broaden knowledge on Development in Transition, particularly in Asia, by exploring interlinkages between production and digital transformation and inclusive growth through policy dialogue and exchanges amongst regions.
- Help design transformational development strategies aligned with the 2030 Agenda focusing on sustainable transition of natural resource-rich developing countries towards a low-carbon economy and better integration into global value chains.