

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT  
MONTERREY, MEXICO**

**Ministerial Plenary Session  
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**Remarks of Mr. Seiichi Kondo  
OECD Deputy Secretary-General**

1. I welcome this opportunity to speak to you today, because this conference focuses on one of the most important issues for the new millennium: financing for development throughout the world. Certainly money will be needed to turn the tide against poverty and achieve the goals of the Millennium Declaration, but good policies and sound institutions are equally important. This conference has the potential to play a major role in achieving these goals, by providing a springboard for effective initiatives by all major players, or stakeholders, to tackle the very real problems of development.
2. The Monterrey consensus document may not provide attention-grabbing headlines, but it nevertheless provides a vital platform for progress for many reasons: it provides a shared view of the responsibility and mutual accountability of all countries -- developed and developing alike -- to work to end poverty and achieve economic, social and environmental progress. It provides important recognition of the need for developing countries to take their destiny into their own hands, for example, as NEPAD is doing. This is essential for development to take off in any country. It also recognizes the importance of mobilizing the private sector as a source of domestic and international financing. At the same time, this engagement of the developing countries throws out a challenge to the developed world: to provide support for economic reform, capacity building, increasing aid flows and making them more effective, and removing barriers to market-based growth. This challenge must be met.
3. The OECD very much welcomes and is committed to building upon this shared development paradigm. Our Convention calls upon the OECD to "promote policies designed to contribute to sound economic expansion in Member as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development." Given increased global interdependence, this priority is even more vital today. OECD values -- commitments to democratic, market-based economies with good governance, and open, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading and financial systems -- are essential to economic development not only for OECD countries, but globally.
4. But we all recognise that achieving these goals will not be easy.

5. What needs to be done, then? As I see it, there is potentially enough capital, goods, knowledge and technology for the development of the entire world. Our challenge is to overcome barriers and impediments to mobilising them for developing countries in sufficient volumes needed to overcome persistent poverty. I would cite four particular needs:

1) To **build capacity**

- 2) We are committed to the objective of **sustainable development**. We are working to develop indicators to measure progress in the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and to incorporate them into the peer reviews conducted in OECD. We intend to make a major contribution to Johannesburg, through a report that builds upon an intensive, three- year programme of OECD work in this area.
  - 3) We have begun to strengthen multidisciplinary work on the interlinkages between trade, agriculture, investment, environment and development policies, including the launching of a project on **policy coherence for development**. OECD analysis and policy dialogue can help increase understanding of the trade-offs involved and synergies that can be achieved through a more coherent approach to sectoral policies that have impacts on both developed and developing countries.
  - 4) We are expanding our work to **support capacity building** for trade and more broadly to help developing countries to build the institutional and market infrastructure through policies and conditions necessary to achieve sustained growth. We also are working to create an “International Taxation Dialogue”, in co-operation with the World Bank and IMF, and we would welcome UN involvement in this initiative to support international co-operation and build capacity on tax matters.
  - 5) We have **strengthened policy dialogue** with some 70 non-OECD countries, for example, through ongoing regional Roundtables on corporate governance; regional networks to fight against corruption, building on the OECD’s Anti-Bribery Convention; and Global Forums on such issues as competition, investment, trade, taxation and sustainable development.
7. But the OECD does not pretend to have all the answers. We have much to gain and to learn by listening to all of you throughout this very rich programme of events at Monterrey. And we look forward to continuing and strengthening the dialogue so that we may all learn from each other about how to ensure that globalisation can be of benefit to us all.