

Looking for results – coherent policies for development – PCD Focal Points meeting June 8, 2009

DSG Mario Amano, welcoming remarks

Ladies and gentlemen, dear friends and colleagues,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to this meeting of national Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development. This network includes representatives not only from OECD countries, but also from emerging and developing countries. I am happy to note that so many Focal Points could join us today. With your help I am confident that we can better pursue policies that support, rather than undermine development.

The importance of addressing the coherence of policies “beyond aid” has been heightened by the climate change and the global crisis. *We have gained a real appreciation of long term risks. Sustainability is not a luxury any more.* For developing countries the crisis has meant less international financing; less international investment; lower export volumes; lower commodity prices; fewer remittances.

OECD has been a pioneer in promoting policy coherence. We recognize that the provision of development assistance is only one part of the development picture. It is clear that we need a broad set of coherent policies- in sectors such as trade, agriculture, energy, environment, investment, health - in both in OECD and developing countries to promote sustainable growth. This is the reason we are here today, to explore opportunities to enhance coherence to achieve sustainable results.

We will start with a panel discussion on “How to mobilize efforts for development – looking beyond aid”.

We are pleased to have Ms Dambisa Moyo as our keynote speaker. Her recent book “Dead Aid” has raised important issues on development and indeed sparked a lively discussion on the role of aid in development. OECD’s core message is about peer learning, and it does not stop at OECD borders. We are keen to debate the complex issues with regard to what brings about development, and will do so today focusing in particular on green growth and investments. So we welcome this timely opportunity.

The linkages between aid and PCD are significant. Firstly, coherent policies can increase the impact of development assistance, while incoherent policies may render aid efforts inefficient. Secondly, well targeted aid to key economic sectors help create an enabling environment for growth and private

investments. Engaging the private sector and the civil society is another key element for achieving sustained development results.

Promoting policy coherence for development entails a commitment to take into account the needs and interests of developing countries. This is a challenge in OECD countries, when domestic interest groups have other priorities than combating world poverty. This is when politics come to play. How can we convince OECD policy-makers across party lines – and more importantly the voters - to support long-term goals whose direct beneficiaries are not OECD citizens? How can we implement more comprehensive policy goals which take account of development impacts? We need to identify where and when to inject incentives in the political economy for a more coherent policy making.

At the OECD we analyse policy impacts and make policy recommendations to governments. Yet, the main challenge lies at the national level - with the national policy making and implementation. If governments are not able or willing to implement policies that take into account development goals, then our advice will be in vain.

Our discussions today will be very important in this respect. We will consider not only the role of aid and non aid policies, but how we could better measure results of coherent - or incoherent - policies. This is crucial in order to convince decision makers that coherent policies pay off. If we can better demonstrate to taxpayers and voters that incoherent policies are costly, we will have made a good case for PCD.

The discussion this afternoon will start by considering a draft framework on how to assess PCD progress. Again, the aim is to learn from each other and you will have the opportunity to listen and debate various experiences to measure PCD. We look forward to the presentation on the forthcoming *EU Report on Policy Coherence for Development* and experiences by some of our members. We will finish the day by presenting some of the PCD work underway here at the OECD: on information and communications technology, and on non-tariff measures in the trade sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The extraordinary level of interdependence among our economies and countries is a powerful motivation for us to work together and to respond coherently to the global development challenges. With this in mind I welcome you all– and wish you a successful meeting.