



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOUNDATIONS ADD THEIR VOICE TO THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT DEBATE

**3 October 2012, Paris** – Over the last decade, non-state actors and especially foundations have become increasingly important in the development arena. Estimates indicate that annual philanthropic contributions for international aid projects were estimated to be between US\$4.5 billion and US\$8 billion in 2009. This corresponds to 4 to 7% of the amount provided by official aid donors the same year (USD 119.6 billion). They have emerged as pivotal players in the development arena alongside official development aid. Investing in social, economic or technological progress and ensuring that benefits of economic growth are shared more broadly across societies is the common ground of many foundations.

Despite foundations' growing investment in and impact on development, the global policy debate rarely takes account of their knowledge and experience. The OECD Development Centre's recently launched Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) will fill this gap, offering an innovative and informal forum for continuous policy dialogue and knowledge sharing. NetFWD will help promote social and economic progress by facilitating synergies between foundations and linking foundation's experience and innovative approaches with the policy debate. Some prominent foundations from OECD and non-OECD countries are already amongst its founding members.

Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre said, *'The traditional models of philanthropy are changing fast. Foundations are known for their advocacy and awareness-raising role, but they also have the capacity to innovate and take risk. It is key for the OECD to be tuned in to these shifts and provide a dedicated dialogue space for these prominent development actors from OECD, emerging and developing economies. We are pleased to welcome foundations around the table.'*

NetFWD has a two-fold objective: first, to influence the policy agenda at the OECD and in other international fora and processes; second, to help foundations share what works and what does not on issues ranging from how to support youth employment to performance-based funding, new models of venture philanthropy and approaches to increasing impact. Key development challenges that netFWD will focus on include inclusive growth, basic service delivery, and governance and institutions. Foundations from both OECD and non-OECD countries can become Network members to allow for an inclusive and cross-regional approach.

NetFWD's founding members and associates are as follows:

#### Members

- Emirates Foundation for Youth Development (Abu Dhabi, UAE)
- Fundación Empresarial EuroChile (Santiago, Chile)
- Instituto Ayrton Senna (São Paulo, Brazil)
- Mo Ibrahim Foundation (London, UK)
- Novartis Foundation for Sustainable Development (Basel, Switzerland)
- Robert Bosch Foundation (Stuttgart, Germany)
- Rockefeller Foundation (NYC, USA)
- Shell Foundation (London, UK)
- The Alexandria Trust (London, UK)
- The African Capacity Building Foundation (Harare, Zimbabwe)

## **Associates**

- ASEAN Foundation (Jakarta, Indonesia)
- Foundation Center (NYC, USA)
- John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement, American University in Cairo (New Cairo, Egypt)
- WINGS (São Paulo, Brazil)

NetFWD was established in the context of the *OECD Strategy on Development* adopted by Ministers in May 2012. The second plenary meeting will take place in April 2013.

## **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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## **NOTES TO THE EDITORS**

### **netFWD**

The OECD Global Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) will provide an innovative Forum for dialogue, contribute to new thinking on development strategies and influence policy and the international development agenda. It will allow foundations to engage with stakeholders ranging from policy makers to practitioners, while collectively looking into the challenges linked to project implementation, effectiveness, impact and sustainable results. Click [here](#) to find out more about netFWD.

### **The OECD Development Centre**

The Development Centre ([www.oecd.org/dev](http://www.oecd.org/dev)) helps policy makers in OECD and partner countries find innovative solutions to the global challenges of development and poverty alleviation. It is a unique institution within the OECD and the international community, where the governments of Member and developing and emerging countries, enterprises and civil society organizations discuss questions of common interest informally.

### **The OECD Strategy on Development**

The OECD Strategy on Development was called for at the OECD's 50th Anniversary Council Meeting at Ministerial level by Secretary Clinton in 2011 and endorsed one year later. The framework outlines the Organisation's contribution to development in the years to come, and seeks to achieve higher, more inclusive, sustainable growth for the widest number of countries. To read the OECD Strategy on Development, please click [here](#).