Good morning.
Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am delighted to welcome you to this Meeting of the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development. This is the third occasion on which the OECD has the pleasure of hosting such a gathering of international focal points for Policy Coherence for Development (PCD). This network is constantly growing.

We launched this PCD network about 4 years ago with participants from OECD members and regional and international organizations. At a time when development issues are high on the international agenda, we have a great opportunity to reactivate this international platform for sharing views and experiences on PCD.

It is also an excellent occasion to make this network more inclusive by expanding its outreach to other developing and emerging countries as well as international organisations – particularly the UN family – and other key stakeholders. I am pleased to note that this inclusiveness is reflected in the wide and diverse participation to this meeting. We greatly appreciate that participants from Brazil, India, and South Africa have been able to attend. You are very welcome.

We are honoured by the positive response we have had from the UN. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to receive Mr. Yiping Zhou, Director of the Special Unit for South-South Co-operation at the UNDP, who is just coming some hours to
Paris to join us today. Thank you very much for being here with us. We are also delighted to welcome Mr. Rob Vos, Director of the Development Policy and Analysis Division, and Mr. Nikhil Seth, Director of the Office for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, both at the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

We have also the privilege of the participation of a diverse and distinguished group of specialists from academic and research institutions coming from Africa, Latin America and Europe and who will speak in the sessions later today.

I believe that the contribution of all of you, not only in this meeting but also beyond, will be central in enhancing our work on PCD. That is particularly important in light of the work we are doing at the OECD. For example, we are preparing a “Policy Framework for PCD” which aims to provide governments with institutional and sectorial guidance for promoting and assessing PCD. Your views and inputs will be helpful to identify critical areas for a better design and implementation of policy solutions that are relevant both for your own efforts and our shared development goals.

This event further underlines the OECD’s commitment to deepen its efforts on PCD. It also reflects the OECD’s engagement to promote mutual knowledge sharing to ensure that diverse government policies do not undermine development efforts, but also take account and are supportive of the countries’ development goals.

Policy Coherence for Development is a high priority for OECD’s work on development. A clear expression of this is the recent adoption by the Council, our highest governing body, of the recommendation on Good Institutional Practices in promoting PCD. These recommendations provide countries with an important, whole-of-government tool to promote PCD at the national level. They will also strengthen OECD monitoring efforts in the DAC peer reviews and in the Public Governance Committee.
The OECD is at the forefront of the international work on Policy Coherence for Development. Our strength on PCD consists in bringing together the collective expertise on a wide range of policy areas within the same institution. The OECD is a multidisciplinary organisation. This provides the Organisation with the comparative advantage to identify and analyse opportunities and challenges in a comprehensive manner to enhance coherence for development.

The work of the OECD Development Assistance Committee, has also been instrumental to promote PCD and to monitor progress towards better PCD. This is done through the DAC’s peer reviews, but also in some of the thematic work on tax, environment, aid for trade etc. The participation of Mr. Eckhard Deustcher, the DAC’s chair, in our meeting highlights the importance of PCD for the Organisation as a whole. He will say more about DAC’s role here later this morning.

We have invested a lot of effort to provide governments with effective tools to promote and monitor PCD at the national level. We are committed to continue with this undertaking and, above all, to do it better. However, at a time of major development challenges and a rapidly changing landscape for global economic governance and development architecture, we recognise the importance of deepening and broadening our work on PCD at all levels and your guidance on the ways forward will be crucial.

In our discussions today, on enhancing PCD at all levels, I invite you to address two general questions:

- How can we best use this PCD network to ensure mutual knowledge sharing and a continued policy dialogue on PCD? And
- What role for the OECD together with other international and regional organizations?

In addition to these general questions, I also invite you to consider the following three main issues:
First, we are just five years away from the 2015 internationally agreed deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The global action plan adopted last week in New York at the United Nations Summit on the MDGs emphasises the need to increase efforts at all levels to enhance policy coherence for development.

The international community has therefore recognized, and I quote here, that achievement of MDGs “requires mutually supportive and integrated policies across a wide range of economic, social and environmental issues for sustainable development”. Policy Coherence for Development can play a key role to leverage ODA but more important, it can significantly increase the impact of all development resources at our disposal contributing to the achievement of the MDGs. We have to be receptive to the urgent call made by the international community to advance in this direction.

Second, the multiple and interrelated global crises of recent years – financial crisis, economic crisis, food crisis and energy crisis – have underscored the need for comprehensive, coherent and collective action by the global community, beside aid efforts. This is fundamental to tackle complex development issues that span national and regional boundaries.

In this context, we need to concert our efforts to provide new opportunities for growth and development through policy solutions based on more comprehensive approaches and on evidence and strong analysis.

PCD can be instrumental to help us transition from a perspective of “aid effectiveness” to a new paradigm of “development effectiveness”. We could contribute to build policy guidance on PCD to move forward in this direction in the run-up to the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness to be held in Busan, Korea in November 2011.

Third, we are witnessing an important realignment of the global economy. As documented by the recent OECD study on: “Perspectives on Global Development
2010: Shifting Wealth”, a number of developing and emerging countries have become centres of strong growth and are making a large contribution to the global economy.

This shift of economic gravity is having important implications for global development and calls for renewed efforts towards a more comprehensive development approach in which enhanced policy coherence for development is decisive. We need to improve and reinforce our approaches, mechanisms and tools in order to respond more adequately to the challenges of an increasingly interdependent and shifting world.

We have to explore options to advance from the traditional approach on PCD, understood as seeking to ensure that the policies of developed countries in areas such as trade, agriculture, migration, fisheries, etc., do not undermine the development objectives of developing countries. This is still important.

In this new context, however, PCD is just as much about the need for mutually reinforcing policies through collective international efforts. It is about the need to harness and synergise different policies, from health or energy, to investment and trade policies to support development in a comprehensive manner. Ensuring that policies in for example, energy and climate change, trade and investment, have positive and long-term sustained impacts requires collective efforts. All countries have a role in development. An innovative solution for PCD can only be built with the active involvement of emerging economies, developing countries and international organisations.

This is the reason why we are here today, to discuss the implications of a shifting and increasingly interdependent world economy on three inter-related areas:

- global development,
- aid architecture, and especially
- Policy coherence for development.
And against this background, to share policies and experiences and explore opportunities to enhance PCD at all levels and exchange views on the ways forward.

Our meeting is structured in two parts. In the morning two special panels will discuss the impact of shifting world economy on aid architecture and PCD. Dr. Lars Engberg-Pedersen will be setting the context for a debate on how to strengthen and articulate the aid architecture to make it more inclusive, coherent and effective, and what is the role of PCD in this context.

The discussions in the afternoon will consider the ongoing work conducted on PCD at global, regional and OECD level. Our meeting will conclude with a discussion on the ways forward to enhance PCD.

Before closing, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce Ebba Dohlman, for those who have not had the opportunity to meet her yet. Since April this year she is the Co-ordinator for the Horizontal Programme on Policy Coherence for Development at the OECD. She works under my responsibility and in close co-ordination with the Office of the Secretary-General. She will support me in trying to mainstream the development dimension within and among the relevant OECD Committees and Directorates. This afternoon she will highlight some of the key strands of the OECD work programme on PCD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish all the success and fruitful discussions for this meeting. I am convinced of the importance to give a new impetus to this network and make of it a continued strategic partnership supportive of PCD. This is a two-way avenue effort in which the participation of all is indispensable. By sharing our mutual knowledge and expertise, we will be able to come up with new and innovative solutions supportive of development.
The OECD is ready to explore ways to make this network a dynamic platform for sharing knowledge, experiences and methodologies on PCD between the Organisation, its members, other international organisations as well as other developed, emerging and developing countries.

Thank you very much.

Let me now to ask Brenda Killen to lead us to the Panel discussions. Brenda is a Head of Division in the DAC Secretariat working on Aid Effectiveness.