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COUNCIL

Council

ROADMAP FOR THE ACCESSION OF COSTA RICA TO THE OECD CONVENTION

(Adopted by Council at its 1320th session on 8 July 2015)

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1. On 9 April 2015, the OECD Council decided to open accession discussions with Costa Rica and invited the Secretary-General to set out the terms, conditions and process for its accession to the OECD for subsequent consideration and adoption by Council. The Council noted the close cooperation of Costa Rica with the OECD since the adoption of the Resolution of the Council on Strengthening the OECD's Global Reach [C(2013)58/FINAL, Item I, vii)], and the actions undertaken by Costa Rica to prepare for its future accession process including the substantial progress made towards participation in the work of committees and adherence to OECD legal instruments and policy standards.

2. In accordance with the Council Decision of 9 April 2015, this Roadmap sets out the terms, conditions and process for the accession of Costa Rica with the objective of enabling Council to come to a decision on whether to invite Costa Rica to accede to the OECD Convention and thereby become a Member of the Organisation. In response to changing circumstances, the Council may introduce changes to the Roadmap during the accession process.

I. Fundamental Values

3. The Council reaffirms that the OECD membership is committed to fundamental values, which candidate countries are expected to share. These fundamental values serve as the foundation of the like-mindedness of OECD Members and have been expressed in various OECD Ministerial Communiqués. Confirming adherence to these values and accepting the established body of OECD instruments, standards and benchmarks, is a requirement for membership.

4. These fundamental values include a commitment to pluralist democracy based on the rule of law and the respect of human rights, adherence to open and transparent market economy principles and a shared goal of sustainable development.

5. The OECD is committed to improving policies in both the national and international context, and to be an effective promoter of global change and reform. The Council recalls that the OECD has unique working methods for advancing international co-operation, which are based on the sharing of experiences and best practices and frank and open dialogue among governments.

6. The Council may raise questions on these values in the course of the accession process, in particular in light of discussions in the substantive committees. It may also review a candidate country's progress towards these fundamental values and its commitment to the OECD's working methods, including in the framework of dedicated meetings in which representatives of the candidate country may be invited to discuss issues of concern.

II. General Obligations of Membership

7. In addition to accession to the Convention on the OECD, the obligations of membership include, *inter alia*, the acceptance of:

- i. the aims of the Organisation, as set out in Article 1 of the Convention as well as in the Report of the OECD Preparatory Committee of December 1960;
- ii. all of the undertakings and commitments set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention;
- iii. Supplementary Protocols Nos. 1 and 2 to the Convention;
- iv. all decisions, resolutions, rules, regulations and conclusions adopted by the Organisation relating to its management and functioning including those concerning the governance of the Organisation, the financial contributions of Members, other financial and budget

matters, staff matters (including the judgments of the Administrative Tribunal), procedural matters, relations with non-Members and classification of information;

- v. the financial statements of the Organisation;
- vi. the working methods of the Organisation;
- vii. all substantive legal instruments of the Organisation in force at the time of the decision of the OECD Council to invite the candidate country to accede to the Convention, subject to any agreed exceptions.

8. OECD membership obligations also include the conclusion of an appropriate Agreement on the privileges and immunities of the Organisation in line with the privileges and immunities which Member countries should be prepared to grant to the Organisation in order to ensure its independence and proper functioning. It will be important for negotiations on this Agreement to start promptly.

9. A distinction must be made between substantive legal instruments which may be subject to certain agreed exceptions (see paragraphs 17 to 20 below) and rules relating to the management and functioning of the Organisation (the Convention, its Supplementary Protocols and all of the rules referred to in paragraph 7, iv. above), which bind all Members and must be accepted as they stand on the date of accession.

III. Technical Reviews by OECD Committees

10. In order to allow Council to take an informed decision on the accession of Costa Rica, Costa Rica will undergo in-depth reviews by the following substantive OECD committees which will provide a formal opinion to the Council:

- Investment Committee;
- Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions;
- Corporate Governance Committee;
- Committee on Financial Markets;
- Insurance and Private Pensions Committee;
- Competition Committee;
- Committee on Fiscal Affairs;
- Environment Policy Committee;
- Chemicals Committee;
- Public Governance Committee;
- Regulatory Policy Committee;
- Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy;
- Economic and Development Review Committee;

- Education Policy Committee;
- Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee;
- Health Committee;
- Trade Committee and the Working Party on Export Credits;
- Committee for Agriculture;
- Fisheries Committee;
- Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy;
- Committee on Digital Economy Policy;
- Committee on Consumer Policy.

11. The Council may also take into account the evaluations of Costa Rica by other OECD bodies, not requested to undertake specific accession reviews, in order to compare Costa Rica's policies with OECD best practices.

a) Scope of Technical Reviews

12. The technical reviews and resulting formal opinions will cover two principal elements:

- i) an evaluation of the willingness and ability of Costa Rica to implement any substantive OECD legal instruments within the committee's competence; and
- ii) an evaluation of Costa Rica's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices in the relevant area, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in the Appendix to the present Roadmap.

13. As part of their reviews, committees may recommend changes to bring Costa Rica's legislation, policy and/or practices into line with OECD instruments or to bring Costa Rica's policies closer to OECD best practices.

14. The background reports prepared by the Secretariat to support the accession reviews may be published before the end of the accession process under the authority of the Secretary-General. However, the version of the reports to be published should not contain the final evaluation of the two criteria set out in paragraph 12 above since this evaluation is destined for the Council only.

i) Willingness and ability to implement substantive OECD legal instruments

15. Costa Rica will be requested to position itself vis-à-vis all the substantive legal instruments adopted within the OECD framework prior to its joining the Organisation, including any new instruments that may be adopted during the accession process. This includes all substantive Decisions, Recommendations, Declarations as well as international agreements or arrangements developed within the OECD framework (the full list is available at www.oecd.org/acts).

16. In practice, the starting point of the technical discussions will be the submission by Costa Rica to the Secretary-General of an Initial Memorandum, setting out Costa Rica's position on each OECD legal instrument in force and an assessment of the conformity of its legislation, policies and practices with the instrument.

17. Costa Rica may take, in principle, one of four initial positions on each legal instrument:

- a) acceptance;
- b) acceptance with a specified timeframe for implementation;
- c) acceptance subject to reservations or observations;
- d) rejection.

18. It is expected that candidate countries will use the options of rejections or acceptance subject to reservations or observations as sparingly as possible. Indeed, resorting to such options could affect the final decision of the Council. If Costa Rica wishes to reject an instrument or accept an instrument subject to a reservation or an observation, this must be clearly explained and justified. Further, it is expected that candidate countries will endeavour to accept as many legal instruments as possible without a request for a specified timeframe for implementation; if Costa Rica wishes to request a timeframe, it has to clearly explain the reasons for such a request. The timeframe must be reasonable and Costa Rica must provide sufficient details concerning the key elements that will be included in new or modified legislation, regulations or policies that are needed to bring them into line with the OECD legal instruments. In addition, for each implementation timeframe requested, Costa Rica should provide a detailed action plan setting out the schedule for how and when the actions will be taken.

19. Following review by the Secretariat and any appropriate modifications incorporated thereafter, the relevant parts of the Initial Memorandum will be submitted to the substantive committees reviewing Costa Rica. The substantive committees will evaluate the positions taken by Costa Rica on legal instruments within their competence and may request changes to those positions. Costa Rica may amend its position on an instrument at any time during the accession process through written notification to the Secretariat. The formal opinion of each substantive committee will include an assessment of the willingness and ability of Costa Rica to implement any legal instruments within the committee's competence.

20. For legal instruments adopted after the submission of the Initial Memorandum, Costa Rica will be requested to take a position as soon as possible, which will be reviewed by the relevant substantive committee. If the substantive committee has already concluded its formal opinion, an evaluation of Costa Rica's position may be undertaken by the Secretariat (see paragraph 23 below). If any legal instruments are amended after the submission of the Initial Memorandum, these amendments will be notified to Costa Rica. Unless Costa Rica informs the Secretariat otherwise, it will be deemed to accept the amendments and the position taken by Costa Rica with regard to the original legal instrument will remain valid. The final position of Costa Rica on each substantive legal instrument, with any amendments made during the accession process, will be set out in the Final Statement submitted by Costa Rica (see paragraph 27 below).

ii) Comparison with OECD best policies and practices

21. The committees reviewing Costa Rica will also provide the Council with an evaluation in their formal opinions of Costa Rica's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices in their area of competence, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in the Appendix to the present Roadmap. Committees may also take into account Costa Rica's position on rules, standards and benchmarks by which OECD Members generally abide (e.g. position on major multilateral environmental agreements).

b) Timeline for Technical Reviews

22. Consultations of bodies will be carried out in parallel and the formal opinions adopted by all committees reviewing Costa Rica will be submitted to the Council as one package. The timeline for the technical reviews is in the hands of the candidate country and depends on a number of factors, in particular the pace at which Costa Rica provides information to the committees and responds to recommendations made, and feedback provided, by committees for changes to legislation, policy and practice. Costa Rica further commits to provide the information requested in a timely manner in order to conduct these evaluations.

IV. Technical Review by the Secretariat

23. Costa Rica's position with respect to substantive OECD legal instruments which do not fall within the competence of a committee reviewing Costa Rica or which have not been reviewed by the competent committee because they were adopted after the conclusion of its formal opinion, will be analysed by the Secretary-General who will present a report to the Council.

V. Optional participation in OECD bodies or programmes

24. During the accession process, Costa Rica is invited to state whether it intends to participate in some or all of the Organisation's optional bodies or programmes. This concerns the International Energy Agency, the OECD Nuclear Energy Agency as well as all other Part II bodies and programmes. Since these bodies and programmes may have special membership criteria and/or require the acceptance of specific obligations, membership would be negotiated directly with them. Accordingly, should Costa Rica express its intention to join some of these activities, the relevant bodies or programmes will undertake their established membership procedures in parallel with the technical reviews by OECD committees.

25. In addition, the Development Assistance Committee will engage in a dialogue with Costa Rica to discuss the opportunity and feasibility of joining the Committee.

VI. Role of the Secretariat

26. Throughout the process, the Secretariat will:

- assist Costa Rica in complying with the requirements of the accession process and provide its authorities with any necessary information or advice, including in the preparation of the Initial Memorandum;
- provide the Council with regular reports on the status of the accession process as well as any material it may require for the consideration of Costa Rica's application for membership;
- facilitate horizontal coordination between substantive committees in their technical reviews of Costa Rica, including the treatment of any horizontal instruments requiring review by more than one committee.

VII. Conclusion of the Accession Process

A. Final Statement

27. When the technical reviews and discussions are complete, the Government of Costa Rica will submit to the Secretary-General a Final Statement:

- a) stating that, by deposit of its instrument of accession to the OECD Convention, it shall assume all obligations of Member of the Organisation including, *inter alia*, the acceptance of:
- i. the aims of the Organisation, as set out in Article 1 of the Convention as well as in the Report of the OECD Preparatory Committee of December 1960;
 - ii. all of the undertakings and commitments set out in Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention;
 - iii. Supplementary Protocols Nos. 1 and 2 to the Convention;
 - iv. all decisions, resolutions, rules, regulations and conclusions adopted by the Organisation relating to its management and functioning including those concerning the governance of the Organisation, the financial contributions of Members, other financial and budget matters, staff matters (including the judgments of the Administrative Tribunal), procedural matters, relations with non-Members and classification of information;
 - v. the financial statements of the Organisation;
 - vi. the working methods of the Organisation;
 - vii. all substantive legal instruments of the Organisation in force at the time of the decision of the OECD Council to invite Costa Rica to accede to the Convention with the remarks specified in the Final Statement, which will set out any rejections, reservations, observations or timeframes for implementation as agreed during the technical reviews;
- b) accepting that the Privileges and Immunities Agreement between Costa Rica and the OECD must have entered into force at the time of the deposit of the instrument of accession to the Convention;
- c) specifying its intention to participate in any optional bodies or programmes upon becoming a Member of the Organisation;
- d) noting that any prior agreements between Costa Rica and the Organisation concerning participation as a non-Member in OECD bodies shall be considered to be terminated as of the date of its accession to the Convention;
- e) agreeing to submit any progress reports to OECD committees after accession as set out in the decision of the Council to invite Costa Rica to accede to the Convention; agreeing to contribute the financial resources to support the evaluation of such reports; and agreeing to the publication of post-accession progress reports prepared by the Secretariat; and
- f) setting out any additional undertakings that may be appropriate in light of the discussions on the terms and conditions of its membership.

B. *Decision by Council to Extend an Invitation to Costa Rica to Accede to the OECD Convention*

28. When all the technical reviews by OECD committees and the technical reviews by the Secretariat are complete, the Secretary-General will present the relevant analysis and documents for Council's consideration including a general report on the accession process with a recommendation to Council, the Final Statement of Costa Rica, the formal opinions of all substantive committees reviewing Costa Rica and a report on the technical review by the Secretariat of Costa Rica's position on substantive legal instruments not reviewed by any committee.

29. On the basis of Costa Rica's Final Statement, and having regard to the reports by the substantive committees and the Secretary-General and the outcome of its consideration of any fundamental values issues, the Council will decide by unanimity, in accordance with Article 16 of the Convention, whether to invite Costa Rica to accede to the Convention as well as the terms and conditions of that invitation.

30. After the adoption of the Council Decision to invite Costa Rica to accede to the OECD Convention, an Agreement will be signed between Costa Rica and the Organisation which would incorporate, as its main elements, the Final Statement of Costa Rica and the Council Decision. This Agreement will be made public.

31. With regard to any substantive legal instruments adopted between the date of the decision of the OECD Council to invite Costa Rica to accede to the Convention and the date on which Costa Rica deposits its instrument of accession, Costa Rica shall provide its position on each instrument within three months after its adoption.

C. *Deposit of the Instrument of Accession*

32. Once the invitation to accede has been extended, it will be for Costa Rica to take the appropriate steps at the national level to accede to the OECD Convention by depositing its instrument of accession with the French Government, the depositary of the Convention. As from the date of the deposit of the instrument of accession, Costa Rica will be an OECD Member.

D. *Adoption of the Council Resolution Recording Accession*

33. The procedure concludes, following the practice of the Organisation, with a Resolution of the Council noting the accession and the date on which it took effect.

E. *Post-Accession Reporting Process*

34. In their formal opinions, committees may make recommendations for follow-up action by Costa Rica after accession and may also recommend to Council that Costa Rica be requested to report back to the committee after accession on progress made in the implementation of these recommendations or on other relevant issues.

35. As noted above, Costa Rica will agree in the Final Statement to submit any progress reports to OECD committees after accession as set out in the decision of the Council to invite Costa Rica to accede to the Convention and to the publication of post-accession progress reports. In the context of post-accession, committees may also suggest capacity building activities which are to be funded by Costa Rica.

VIII. *Resources Required for the Accession Process*

36. Costa Rica will be required to pay the non-recurring costs associated with its accession. These costs will include OECD staff time and those associated with missions, meetings, documentation, co-ordination and management, communication and miscellaneous costs.

37. Pre-accession costs will be charged to Costa Rica as from the date of the adoption by Council of the present Roadmap.

38. To ensure that the necessary resources are available in time to allow the accession process to proceed, Costa Rica will be asked to make payments in advance of expenditure on the basis of Secretariat estimates of costs. These estimates, which will be made annually, will include a margin for unanticipated expenditures during the course of the year ahead.

39. However, the amount to be paid for the subsequent year will need to be adjusted in the light of the costs actually incurred in the preceding year. For example, any funds unspent in 2016 will be applied to reduce the amount to be called up in 2017, but if costs incurred in 2016 exceed Costa Rica's payment for that year it may be necessary for Costa Rica to make a larger payment in 2017.

40. The total cost of accession may ultimately be greater or less than the amount estimated since the progress of the accession process depends on a number of factors in particular the pace at which Costa Rica provides information to the committees and responds to recommendations made by committees. In this respect and in line with the approach taken for previous accession processes, any unspent appropriations will be automatically carried-forward to the following year.

41. At the end of the accession process, an accounting of the final total amount of the non-recurring costs shall be provided by the Secretary-General to the Council for its approval and final settlement with Costa Rica. Any outstanding balance shall be paid by Costa Rica or reimbursed by the Organisation (including through an offset against membership contributions) as the case may be.

IX. Practical Arrangements

42. In order to ensure optimal efficiency in the accession process, Costa Rica shall correspond with the Organisation and make all documentation available in one of the official languages of the Organisation (English or French) or provide official translations of such correspondence or documentation. The cost of any interpretation or translation into or from another language shall be covered by Costa Rica in addition to the pre-accession contributions referred to in paragraph 36 above.

43. Costa Rica should designate and maintain at all times a high level contact person entrusted with coordinating national authorities involved in the accession process. Costa Rica should also designate a person with authority in charge of OECD accession who will be posted in Paris with the objective of facilitating contacts and handling operational matters arising in connection with the implementation of this process. Finally, Costa Rica should provide the Secretariat with a list of contact persons who will be responsible for each of the reviews contemplated in paragraphs 10 and 23 above.

APPENDIX: LIST OF CORE PRINCIPLES FOR TECHNICAL REVIEWS BY OECD COMMITTEES

This Appendix sets out Core Principles for the technical accession review of each OECD committee. As stated in Section III above, as part of its review, each committee will evaluate the position taken by Costa Rica vis-à-vis all the substantive OECD legal instruments within its area of competence as well as Costa Rica's policies and practices as compared to OECD best policies and practices, with reference to the corresponding Core Principles set out in this Appendix. These lists of Core Principles are non-exhaustive and the committees may consider other issues within their competence as appropriate. In coming to their own conclusions, committees may rely on technical opinions provided by their subsidiary bodies.

Investment Committee

- Full compliance with the principles of non-discrimination, transparency and 'standstill', in accordance with the OECD Codes of Liberalisation and the National Treatment Instrument of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises [C(76)99/FINAL] (reservations under the Codes must be limited to existing restrictions);
- An open and transparent regime for FDI, restrictions must be limited and concern sectors where restrictions are not uncommon in OECD countries;
- Liberalisation of other long-term capital movements, including equity investment and debt instruments of a maturity of one year or more; commercial credit and other capital operations relating to international trade are also to be liberalised; a timetable for the abolition of remaining controls on short-term capital movements is required;
- No restrictions on payments or transfers in connection with international current account transactions; the candidate countries must comply with all IMF Article VIII requirements;
- Relaxation of restrictions on cross-border trade in services, particularly banking, insurance and other financial services;
- Fair and transparent implementing practices and proportionality of the measures relative to the stated objective pursued;
- Effective enforcement of intellectual property rights;
- Key commitments under investment protection and other international agreements;
- Evidence of a commitment to implement the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, in particular the existence of a National Contact Point that operates in accordance with the provisions set out in the Decision of the Council on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises [C(2000)96/FINAL], and of commitment to the various international instruments cited in the Guidelines;

- Completion of the OECD Survey of Implementation of Methodological Standards for Direct Investment (based on the Benchmark Definition of Foreign Direct Investment, 4th edition – BMD4 2008) and agreement to report data for the compilation of the *OECD International Direct Investment Yearbook*, in accordance with the timetable and template agreed by Members.

Working Group on Bribery in International Business Transactions

- Full compliance with the requirements of the Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions;
- A satisfactory legal framework for combating bribery on a domestic level;
- Criminalisation of bribery of foreign public officials;
- A legal framework for corporate liability for bribery of foreign public officials (whether administrative, civil, criminal or hybrid);
- Express non-tax deductibility of bribes and adequate accounting and auditing requirements;
- Ability to co-operate with other Parties to the Convention;
- Enforcement capacity for investigation and prosecution of bribery cases;
- Readiness and ability to undergo and to participate in peer reviews of other Parties to the Convention.

Corporate Governance Committee

- Ensuring a consistent regulatory framework that provides for the existence and effective enforcement of shareholder rights and the equitable treatment of shareholders, including minority and foreign shareholders;
- Requiring timely and reliable disclosure of corporate information in accordance with internationally recognised standards of accounting, auditing and non-financial reporting;
- Establishing effective separation of the government's role as an owner of state owned companies and the government's role as regulator, particularly with regard to market regulation;
- Ensuring a level-playing field in markets where state-owned enterprises and private sector companies compete in order to avoid market distortions;
- Recognising stakeholder rights as established by law or through mutual agreements and the duties, rights and responsibilities of corporate boards of directors.

Committee on Financial Markets

- Market-oriented and sufficiently open, efficient and sound financial system, including the market and regulatory structure, based on high standards of transparency, confidence and integrity;
- Relaxation of restrictions on cross-border trade, investment and establishment in banking and other financial services, as required under the OECD Codes of Liberalisation.

Insurance and Private Pensions Committee

- Ensuring sound prudential regulation of private pension systems and protecting the rights of members and beneficiaries;
- Ensuring sound prudential regulation of insurance and reinsurance markets and protecting the rights of policy holders and beneficiaries;
- Relaxation of restrictions on cross border trade, investment and establishment in insurance and pension services as required under the OECD Codes of Liberalisation.

Competition Committee

- Ensuring effective enforcement of competition laws through the establishment and operation of appropriate legal provisions, sanctions, procedures, policies and institutions;
- Facilitating international co-operation in investigations and proceedings that involve application of competition laws;
- Actively identifying, assessing and revising existing and proposed public policies whose objectives could be accomplished with less anti-competitive effect, and ensuring that persons or bodies with competition expertise are involved in the process of such competition assessment.

Committee on Fiscal Affairs

- Eliminating international double taxation on income and capital through complying with the key substantive conditions underlying the OECD Model Tax Convention;
- Committing to provide appropriate data for the CFA's comparative statistical publications and also to contribute actively to analysis of tax policy in terms of its effects on economic performance and well-being;
- Eliminating double taxation through ensuring the primacy of the arm's length principle, as set out in the OECD's Transfer Pricing Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Tax Administrations, for the determination of transfer pricing between associated enterprises;
- Committing to address base erosion and profit shifting in accordance with the OECD's work in this area;
- Engaging in effective exchange of information in accordance with OECD standards as reflected in the 2012 version of Article 26 of the OECD Model Tax Convention and the Convention on Mutual Administrative Assistance in Tax Matters, as well as emerging standards (e.g. on automatic exchange of information¹);

1 It is to be noted that on 15 July 2014 the Council adopted its Recommendation on the Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information in Tax Matters [C(2014)81/FINAL] and that further actions of the Council in the area of fiscal affairs in 2015-2016 may lead to an update of the Core Principles.

- Combating harmful tax practices in accordance with the Recommendation of the Council on Counteracting Harmful Tax Competition [C(98)17/FINAL] and related reports;
- Eliminating double and unintentional non-taxation through the development and implementation of International VAT/GST Guidelines designed to encourage greater coherence and clarity when applying consumption taxes to international transactions;
- Combating tax crimes and other crimes in accordance with the Recommendation of the Council on Tax Measures for Further Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions [C(2009)64] and the Recommendation of the Council to Facilitate Co-operation between Tax and Other Law Enforcement Authorities to Combat Serious Crimes [C(2010)119] and related reports.

Environment Policy Committee

- Applying the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) so that the costs of pollution prevention and control measures are borne by polluters, and are not generally subsidised by governments;
- Promoting the use of economic instruments to improve the allocation and efficient use of resources² and better reflect the costs to society of waste and pollution;
- Undertaking regular evaluations, including cost-benefit analyses, of the environmental effectiveness and economic efficiency of environmentally-related policy instruments;
- Supporting environmental impact assessment (EIA) procedures that facilitate the thorough analysis of projects with potentially significant environmental impacts, together with public participation measures for informing and engaging those affected by such projects;
- Implementing integrated approaches for pollution prevention and control. Promoting technological and organisational innovation that makes the achievement of environmental goals more likely in the future;
- Ensuring that the generation of waste, including hazardous waste, is reduced, the export of waste for final disposal is minimised and is consistent with the environmentally sound and efficient management of such wastes, and that adequate facilities for the environmentally sound management of waste are made available;
- Controlling exports and imports of hazardous waste while allowing trade in waste as end-of-life materials and products destined for economically efficient and environmentally sound recovery operations within the OECD area;
- Ensuring the production of high quality and policy relevant environmental information to support the development of effective policies concerning the environment and sustainable development;
- Ensuring the adequate dissemination of environmental information and its availability to the public;
- Working closely with other countries to address trans-frontier pollution;

² The term “resources” means natural resources, the materials and products derived from them, as well as waste.

- Willingness and ability to take on the obligations consistent with OECD instruments in the field of environment, including waste;
- As appropriate, assuming a similar level of obligations in relevant Multilateral Environmental Agreements as those accepted by most or all OECD Member countries.

Chemicals Committee

- Agreeing to accept, from the date of OECD accession at the latest, data generated in the testing of chemicals by countries adhering to the OECD Acts on Mutual Acceptance of Data and in accordance with the OECD Principles of Good Laboratory Practice and Test Guidelines, for the purposes for the assessment and other uses relating to the protection of man and the environment;
- Working towards the harmonisation of their chemical safety policies with those of OECD countries in order to (i) ensure that the instruments used to protect man and the environment are of comparable quality to those in Member countries, (ii) promote an OECD-wide system of chemicals management, thereby contributing to creation of a level playing field, and (iii) increase the possibilities of work-sharing with OECD Partners;
- Giving particular attention to the establishment of a systematic and comprehensive industrial chemicals management system;
- Working together with OECD countries to encourage convergence of chemical safety policies of non-Members towards OECD standards;
- Exchanging technical and policy information to address current and newly-emerging issues associated with chemical management;
- Committing to global agreements related to chemicals management;
- Willingness and ability to take on the obligations consistent with OECD instruments in the fields of chemical safety;
- Assuming obligations in Multilateral Environmental Agreements to the same extent as the ones accepted by most or all OECD Members.

Public Governance Committee

- Sound structure of government, including the separation of powers; co-ordination, leadership and foresight capacity within the Centre of Government that ensures a whole of government approach to decision-making and effective interface between the political and administrative levels, accompanied by coherent enforcement frameworks and effective justice institutions, as well as robust frameworks for the governance of critical risks and of gender equality;
- Transparency and accountability to promote and facilitate responsibility for government action and inclusive stakeholder engagement in policy design and implementation;
- Integrity in the public sector, including the application of principles and high-standards of behaviour in public institutions, integrity risk-management and sound safeguards at the intersection of the public and private sectors, including for lobbying, conflict of interest and public procurement;

- Budget performance, including aggregate fiscal discipline, the effective allocation and reallocation of public resources, the promotion of the efficient delivery of public services, and budget transparency and accountability;
- Strategic human resources management in the public sector as a whole-of-government strategic enabler for better policy-making and public-service delivery, including core values, strategic workforce planning and management, diversity, and mechanisms to ensure staff performance and capacity;
- The use of ICTs and electronic access to government, including the vision for digital government as a strategic enabler of public-sector performance and responsiveness to the needs of civil society, and the framework conditions for implementing digital government;
- Multi-level governance, including the ability of central and sub-national administrations to implement together these good-government practices and design and deliver services efficiently and effectively, and equitably across regions;
- The use of performance indicators and data on public governance, including performance data for eventual inclusion in the governance database published biennially in Government at a Glance.

Regulatory Policy Committee

- The commitment to an integrated ‘whole of government’ regulatory policy to improve the quality of regulation for business and citizens, including both *ex ante* impact assessment and *ex post* evaluation with clear ministerial responsibility for implementation;
- The approach to policy development, including the establishment of institutions and processes for ensuring sound policy development, including regulatory impact assessment (RIA) and oversight and reporting on government-wide compliance with regulatory management practices;
- RIA assessment capacity, including the implementation of a regulatory impact assessment framework that incorporates explicit consideration of non-regulatory options, a preference for performance-based regulation and the efficient use of market mechanisms;
- Adherence to the principles of transparency and public participation in the development of regulations;
- Regulatory performance, including the performance of its regulatory system, focussing on the organisation of the functions of its regulatory agencies and inspectorates, their public accountability and their conformance with review and appeals processes;
- Multi-level governance for regulatory coherence, including the promotion of regulatory coherence through coordination with national, sub-national and supra-national bodies and the promotion of international regulatory co-operation.

Committee on Statistics and Statistical Policy

- Willingness and ability to fulfil the obligation in Article 3 a) of the OECD Convention to “furnish the Organisation with the information necessary for the accomplishment of its tasks”, including providing short term, structural and other analytical statistics and their associated methodological information needed for adequate policy analysis and surveillance:

- adequate legal and institutional framework for statistics and its conformity with good statistical practices and the principles applied in OECD Member countries;
- quality of the data and metadata available and their comparability with data and metadata available in OECD Member countries;
- integration in the Organisation's reporting and information systems by the time of accession.

Economic and Development Review Committee

- To ensure effective policy-making in order to improve economic performance on a sustainable basis:
 - A robust macroeconomic policy framework and a sound financial system, including in the face of economic shocks;
 - Structural policy settings across product, labour and financial markets consistent with promoting improved economic performance.

Education Policy Committee

- Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of education and training programmes, and improving the quality of learning outcomes;
- Promoting equity in educational opportunities, ensuring access to and success in quality education for all;
- Gathering and using information to guide skills development;
- Using funding instruments and incentives to steer and encourage investment in skills development;
- Engaging stakeholders in designing and implementing policy.

Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee

- Ensuring that labour market, training, social protection and migration policies and institutions are in place to facilitate economic adjustment and promote economic prosperity for all through:
 - appropriate labour market and training policies and institutions as well as industrial relations systems which are in line with the Restated OECD Jobs Strategy;
 - policies to improve labour market opportunities for under-represented groups (for example, the unskilled, youth, women and older people) as well as policies to promote the transition from informal to formal employment;
 - financially and socially sustainable policies to promote social integration and cohesion, including retirement income policies, support for families with children, and measures designed to assist people without work and other vulnerable groups to combat poverty and find productive and rewarding jobs;

- effective governance of the labour market and social protection systems, including the capacity to monitor the implementation of policies and analyse and evaluate the outcomes achieved;
- policies to ensure the full respect of labour rights;
- policies to better manage migration flows and to foster the labour market and social integration of immigrants and their children as well as policies to harness the skills of emigrants to support economic growth.

Health Committee

- The ability of the health system to deliver safe and appropriate services, to all social groups and in a transparent and timely manner;
- The sustainability of the health system, including in particular the ability of government and individuals to meet the financial obligations being placed on them;
- The governance of the health system, including collection, monitoring and analysis of data on health system and policy performance, as well as the accountability and transparency of stakeholders involved in decision making and the provision of health services;
- The policies which are in place in key areas of general global concern, including the prevention and treatment of non-communicable diseases, the health workforce, and innovation in health goods and services;
- The willingness and ability to provide internationally comparable data and information to, and participation in the projects and programmes of the Health Committee and its sub-groups as well as other international organisations involved in health policy, to facilitate mutual benefit and mutual learning.

Trade Committee and the Working Party on Export Credits and Credit Guarantees

- Impact of trade policies and practices on the multilateral trading system:
 - transparency and openness of decision making on trade policy and practice;
 - market access in goods, services and agriculture;
 - protection and enforcement of intellectual property rights;
 - export credits policies and practices.

Committee for Agriculture

- Agriculture policy and other support for the agriculture and agri-food sector, assessing the extent to which policies designed to support the agriculture and agri-food sector are transparent, targeted, tailored, flexible and equitable;
- Whether agriculture policies contribute to sustainability and support improved environmental performance and “green growth”;

- Whether the necessary institutional and regulatory frameworks are in place to enable markets for food and agriculture products to function predictably, efficiently and effectively, including to attract investment and support innovation and improved productivity;
- Whether policies for the food and agriculture sector are coherent with general macroeconomic, structural and social policies.

Fisheries Committee

- The application of sustainable fisheries management policies and practices in the perspective of promoting green growth; the use of eco-system based management approaches;
- A governance structure that can deliver sustainable fisheries and aquaculture outcomes, including with respect to stakeholder involvement in the management process;
- Sufficient research capacity to support developments in the fisheries and aquaculture sectors;
- A sufficiently resourced fisheries surveillance and enforcement system to deter illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing activities;
- National uptake of international principles for fisheries and aquaculture such as the FAO Code of Conduct;
- Participation in international bodies dealing with fisheries and aquaculture – both regional fisheries management bodies and international organisations dealing with fisheries and aquaculture matters.

Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy

- Develop policies and good practices as regards the accessibility, use and management of research data;
- Promote mutually-beneficial international technology co-operation, economic growth and social development and address barriers that may affect such co-operation;
- Promote mutually beneficial scientific and technological exchanges and remove barriers which have harmful effects on scientific and technological progress and its contribution to economic growth and social development;
- Promote, individually and collectively, advances in scientific and technological knowledge;
- Promote policies which encourage and protect innovation while supporting the diffusion and access to knowledge;
- Provide comparative statistical information, according to OECD guidelines, on their science and technology performance which is the basis for the Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy's analytical work;
- Consider and follow, when appropriate, the best practices in science and technology policy, including intellectual property rights developed by the Committee on Scientific and Technological Policy.

Committee on Digital Economy Policy

- Development of effective policies to assist the expansion of the Internet economy, including policies to spur the use of the Internet, to promote the development of applications, to promote competitive communications markets as well as efficient and innovative supply arrangements;
- Compliance with the OECD Principles for Internet Policy Making which call for preserving the open and decentralised nature of the Internet to stimulate innovation, deliver economic and social benefits and give voice to democratic aspirations;
- Improve access and increase the use of public sector information through maximising the availability of public sector information and providing transparent conditions for re-use;
- Protection of individuals' personal data and co-operation in the enforcement of privacy laws in accordance with the relevant OECD Recommendations;
- Promotion of a culture of security risk management in the use of information systems and networks and the protection of critical information infrastructures, including development of policies and practices to address those risks.

Committee on Consumer Policy

- Advance consumer welfare through the development and enforcement of policies that promote:
 - protection for consumers engaging in electronic commerce;
 - enforcement co-operation against fraudulent and deceptive commercial practices affecting consumers, within and across borders;
 - development of consumer dispute resolution and redress mechanisms, including alternative, out-of court methods for consumers to address disputes;
 - cross-border co-operation in addressing consumer product safety issues, including participation in activities to enhance information sharing;
 - consumer empowerment, including consumer education and initiatives aimed at raising awareness of emerging consumer problems and consumer rights and obligations.