

THE 2016 GLOBAL FORUM ON DEVELOPMENT

**From commitment
to actual implementation of the SDGs:
Policies, data and financing**



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The 2016 OECD Global Forum on Development

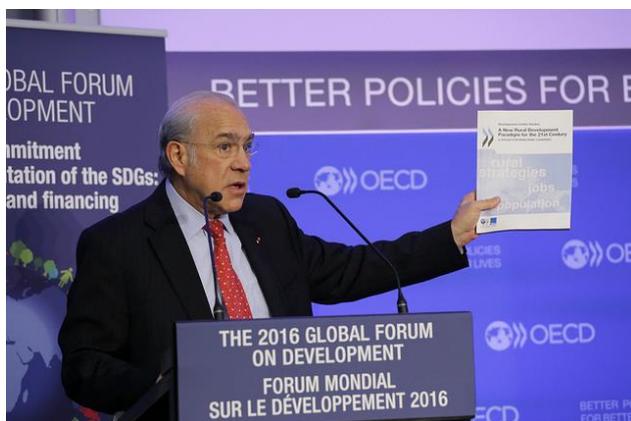
The OECD convened the 8th Global Forum on Development (GFD) on 31 March 2016. Ministerial and senior-level participants from developed and developing countries, multilateral institutions, foundations and non-governmental organisations, OECD countries, and the OECD Secretariat gathered to discuss "From commitment to actual implementation of the SDGs: Policies, data and financing."



About the event

The Global Forum on Development (<http://www.oecd.org/site/oecdgfd>) was launched in 2006 by the Development Centre and the Development Co-operation Directorate to promote dialogue between OECD and non-member governments, as well as with private sector and civil society actors. It facilitates information exchange on best practices regarding development challenges and provides policy recommendations across broad constituencies from both OECD and non-OECD countries.

Opening session – A new phase for global development: How global trends will affect progress with the SDGs?



Angel Gurría, Secretary General, OECD launched the opening session by highlighting the strides the international community made in 2015 towards multi-lateral co-operation with the adoption of three major international milestones: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda to overhaul global development finance and COP 21 in Paris on climate change. Whilst 2015 marked a key juncture in multi-lateral commitments, 2016 must be about implementing these agreements. The

Secretary-General pointed out that the international community has around 800 weeks to lift 800 million people out of extreme poverty, and that this ambitious goal must be achieved whilst being mindful of our planetary boundaries, which are increasingly under human-induced stress. Other global challenges include slowing growth in emerging and advanced economies, the deleterious effects of climate change, the growing refugee crisis in Europe, and the struggle to build more inclusive, cohesive societies across emerging and advanced countries alike.

With these global challenges in mind, Secretary-General Gurría highlighted three priorities that the OECD can support to implement the SDGs. Firstly, effective policies are paramount and depend on a global enabling environment and local-level ownership. Rural development in particular will be a necessary pre-condition to achieve the SDGs. The Secretary-General announced the launch of the OECD Development Centre's New Rural Development Paradigm for the 21st Century, which is a toolkit for developing countries that will inform discussions on building more resilient rural livelihoods. The second dimension of OECD support to the SDGs includes improved data for development that can serve as a GPS to show where one is headed and to help adjust one's course as necessary. The OECD has a wealth of data and experience and can support national, regional and global efforts through such programmes as PISA for Development or PARIS21. Thirdly, enhanced finance for development will be integral to ensuring the development community can walk the talk of the SDGs. This will require not only new avenues for aid and investment, but also international fora, like the GFD, that bring together stakeholders to share knowledge and experiences.



Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, opened his remarks by stressing the need for global South-North co-operation to achieve the SDGs in an increasingly complex and interconnected world. The international community achieved a major milestone by adopting the SDGs in 2015. However, a number of global challenges threaten the successful implementation of the SDGs, including climate change. Minister Shide stressed that climate change is no longer a future-oriented challenge but one that must be tackled now.

Achieving the SDGs and alleviating global poverty are inextricable from solving climate change. Minister Shide commended the OECD for already playing a significant role in this, pointing to its work on green and inclusive growth. Minister Shide then highlighted Ethiopia's success in reducing poverty, pursuing positive rural development and achieving the MDGs. However, much work remains

to be done. The global community must take similar actions and make equivalent sacrifices as Ethiopia to mitigate the effects of climate change –global problems that are mutually reinforcing must be addressed in a holistic manner. Minister Shide also cited how collecting relevant data to keep countries accountable to their commitments is necessary.

Claudia Juech, Associate Vice President, Strategic Insights, The Rockefeller Foundation, began her remarks by highlighting the need to consider broader global forces to catalyse scale and multiply impact. The Rockefeller Foundation’s work is rooted in the belief that transformative change occurs when institutions leverage global forces. The objective of the Foundation is to analyse how institutions can harness these global forces and trends to achieve global prosperity.



Ms Juech asked participants to consider five global trends that are changing global development. First, the rise of private capital for public goods is transforming traditional development financing, bringing in new actors and new financing to fill the financing gap needed to achieve the SDGs. Second, the changing nature of global poverty that is more concentrated in conflict and fragile states means that strategies that worked for the MDGs might not work for the SDGs. Third, rising displacement, refugees and the role that cities play in mitigating these problems will require supporting inclusive communities. Fourth, the emergence of tropical diseases like the Zika virus in places that have never experienced such diseases or have not experienced them for decades makes it impossible to separate the health of our planet from the health of our populations. Lastly, the growing interest in waste and the growing incentives to reduce it must be accompanied by a shift from a mind-set of scarcity to a mind-set of innovation and systems thinking. Ms Juech closed her remarks by stressing the key role philanthropy can play in sustainable development by taking greater risks and investing in new pathways.

Mario Pezzini, Director of the OECD Development Centre and Acting Director of the Development Co-operation Directorate, marked the Forum’s enduring importance on its tenth anniversary. He emphasised the GFD’s key role in bringing together different development constituencies and ideas. The year 2016 marks a turning point, moving from discussing the commitments made in 2015 in the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to implementing those commitments.



Session 1 – No one left behind: Reshaping the policies to meet the SDGs



In his role as moderator, **Jean-Marc Châtaigner, Director General Delegate, Institut de recherche pour le développement (IRD)**, jump-started the discussion by explaining a two-fold vision for sustainable development. First, he stressed that the SDGs go beyond the MDGs in issuing the mandate to leave no one behind. What this means in practical terms is now the focus. Second, the complexity of the SDG agenda requires engaging an increasing number of diverse stakeholders in a coordinated way. The need for political goodwill is now paramount since the SDGs are non-binding.

Mariatou Kone, Minister of Solidarity, Social Cohesion and Compensation for the victims, Côte d'Ivoire, shared a perspective from the South on how to mainstream inclusion and solidarity into a country's growth agenda. Drawing on Côte d'Ivoire's experience, the Minister explained how the 2012-2015 national development plan focuses on leaving no one behind. This involves, for example, fighting youth unemployment, furthering sustainable agricultural production, increasing women's access to land resources, improving health services and compulsory education for those aged 6 to 16, expanding literacy and education for women, promoting greater gender balance, and increasing access to water, energy and justice. To achieve this, the Minister stressed the need to build cohesive communities on such principles as reconciliation, solidarity, peace and employment. She emphasised the need to engage with and deepen co-operation among local communities, civil society and U.N. agencies. Côte d'Ivoire's new 2016-2020 development plan aims to strengthen institutions, human capacity, industrialisation, infrastructure, regional integration and international co-operation — all with the goal of bettering living conditions as well as human and social dimensions for the people of Côte d'Ivoire.



Nina Blackwell, Executive Director, Firelight Foundation, stressed the role of philanthropic foundations in catalysing the SDGs. While philanthropy often looks at big global trends, sustainable action to change lives requires local implementation. In other words, Ms Blackwell's presentation underscored philanthropy's role in localising change. Philanthropy's strengths lie in the ability not only to take risks, to manage both pilots and taking impact to scale, to move capital quickly as a large source of un-earmarked funds, but also to work at the local level and lead local thinking about structural change. Ms Blackwell stressed the importance of listening locally, of engaging local communities and governments. Such local focus is crucial to learning lessons, unearthing data, recommending policies and increasing effectiveness. Doing this requires giving local programs time to grow and evolve. Patience is key to building up, not supplanting, local institutions. Philanthropy needs to shift to a listening mode, grounded in patience, to change entire systems, not just tackle discrete development problems.





Abdelghni Lakhdar, Economic Counsellor to the Head of the Government, Morocco, discussed the approach that the Moroccan government has taken in its efforts to promote inclusive growth. He acknowledged that the national context plays a large role in defining specific constraints to achieving inclusive growth and increasing investment. Based on a detailed analysis, Morocco identified human capital, for example, as a key constraint to inclusive growth. Yet, he also acknowledged that certain vulnerable populations will not

automatically benefit from economic growth and need to be targeted by specific policies. Reducing general subsidies, which used to take up 6% of Morocco's GDP, allowed the government to invest in policies targeting such specific vulnerable populations as widows, students and people with disabilities. Mr Lakhdar underlined that tackling individual policy areas was not sufficient. Policy coherence was identified as a key policy challenge in need of being further looked into. Many benefits would be realised if international development organisations pushed this topic further in the global debate and developed toolkits that would allow countries to strive for coherence. Similarly, development organisations can raise awareness about the interdependence between developmental and environmental goals.

Anna Karnikova, Head of the Sustainable Development Department at the Office of the Government, Czech Republic, made a clear case that the complexity of implementing the SDGs in the Czech Republic is both a challenge and an opportunity. The government has to resist the temptation that is prevalent among different ministries of cherry-picking certain goals and neglecting others. While the MDGs were under the Foreign Ministry's responsibility, the SDGs provide the opportunity to involve other ministries



and to acknowledge that their implementation must be a domestic policy goal. Thus, the new long-term development strategy was drafted with the SDGs in mind. It envisions a good quality of life for all, focusing efforts on tackling inequality. Tackling such inequality requires collecting disaggregated data to identify vulnerable populations. Implementing the SDGs also necessitates policy coherence, but governments still know too little about how to meet that challenge.



Pierre Victoria, Sustainable Development Director, Veolia, stressed the role of a private-sector company in achieving the SDGs. Veolia provides such essential local services as energy and water in a number of developing countries. He explained how private companies in the past contributed significantly to achieving the MDGs by, for example, increasing access to running water. However, he acknowledged that many obstacles remain. Chief among them is the race between fast population growth in many

developing countries and increasing access to local services. Another is that while there may be cooperation with local authorities on social tariffs for the poor, the largest obstacle is often the high up-front cost of connecting to networks. Veolia is contributing to the achievement of the SDGs by aligning the company's work around nine of its own goals for the future. To monitor progress, indicators were developed for each goal, a committee of experts was convened to advice on achieving the goals and each member of the executive committee was put in charge of a goal. Mr Victoria highlighted the private sector's role in breaking silos and promoting innovation by replacing a top-down culture with a bottom-up one.

Main takeaways

- Philanthropy can play a crucial role in supporting sustainable development by taking greater risks and investing in new pathways.
- Greater emphasis on policy consistency and coherence is needed for both international organisations and countries in order to optimise the potential of the SDGs.
- The private sector has an important role to play in breaking silos and promoting innovation by replacing a top-down culture with a bottom-up one.

Session 2 - A new Rural Development Paradigm: Place matters for the SDGs



Reaching the SDGs will require addressing rural development in developing countries, argued **Carl Dahlman, Special Counsellor to the Director at the OECD Development Centre**. The rural population in developing countries accounts for 3 billion people, while poverty prevails in rural areas and the gap with respect to urban areas is widening. Developing countries face new challenges, including a rapidly growing active population, a more competitive global context, the effects of climate change, and the limited capacity of cities to provide employment. The extent of these challenges will require innovative development strategies that allow further reaping new opportunities.

Shin Dong-Ik, Former Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Korea,

highlighted the importance of achieving balanced development between urban and rural economies. The success of Korea's experience in bridging the gap under Saemaul Undong (the New Village Movement) relied on four elements, according to the Former Deputy Minister. First, long-term planning by the government, coupled with strong leadership (governance); second, the pro-active participation of the population (voluntarism); third, a scheme of well-aligned incentives based on both performance and outcomes (motivation); and finally, the most important factor: investments in education and training (skills). Shin Dong-Ik concluded his remarks by emphasising that Saemaul Undong took place in a very specific context. Thus, rural development strategies drawing lessons from this experience have to be "tailor-made," i.e. adapting Korea's success to the characteristics and overall context of the region or country where the strategies will take place.



Mohamed Tolba, Chief Agricultural Economist, African Development Bank,

stressed that rural development that empowers people needs to be local, participatory and have necessary infrastructure. Rural development has to respect homogeneous social and territorial units to succeed. The African Development Bank's experience has shown that good solutions to local problems often stem from letting local units take part in rural development processes. Yet, working with local social and territorial units requires integrating vulnerable groups such as women and young people. Rural development needs, next to an active local population, good infrastructure to connect the rural areas to markets and to add value to agricultural outputs.



Remy Sietchiping, Leader at the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, Urban Planning and Design Branch, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), discussed the implications of connecting the SDGs. It is necessary to approach urbanisation as a force relevant for both urban and national development. Building on urban-rural linkages will be key for rural development and addressing the challenges related to Africa’s ongoing demographic transition. Because of the interconnections

between rural and urban areas, it is also important to extend the discourse on development to adopt a spatial dimension: Mr Sietchiping proposed to further push for ‘no space left behind.’ This requires better co-ordination and collaboration across different levels of government and among development partners.

Secondary cities must also be developed to become rural areas’ gate to markets. Megacities get a lot of attention, but projections show that major growth is expected in smaller cities that currently lack infrastructure, diversified economy and social services. **Mariama Awumbia, Board Member, Savannah Accelerated Development Authority, Ghana,** argues that smaller secondary cities have to be created or further developed as entries to rural areas. Secondary cities play multiple roles; they create synergies and network effects for rural areas and reduce pressure on megacities. A good master plan for the development of secondary cities should be embedded in national development plans. These should include ecological zoning and study natural links between rural areas and secondary cities. At the same time, the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority is exploring creating land trusts in northern Ghana to help local farmers’ access necessary financing for the development of their area.



Main takeaways

- It is necessary to extend the discourse on development to adopt a spatial dimension and include the interconnections between rural and urban areas into this equation. Building on urban-rural linkages will be key for rural development and addressing the challenges related to Africa’s ongoing demographic transition.
- Megacities get a lot of attention, but projections show that major growth is expected in smaller cities. These secondary cities play multiple roles; they create synergies and network effects for rural areas and reduce pressure on megacities.

Session 3 - Data for Development: How to track progress of the SDGs?



Martine Durand, Director, OECD Statistics Directorate, stressed that about a third of the 230 indicators endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC) in March 2016 to monitor progress towards the 169 SDG targets already exist. A third more will be produced without many difficulties. And for the remaining third of these indicators, data does not exist at the moment. A major challenge is then how both developed and developing countries are going to monitor the SDGs, and which indicators they are going to choose to reach their

priorities. The identity and role of relevant actors likely to generate, provide and develop the indicators and the co-operation between national statistical systems and these new actors - in particular those coming from the private sector and the civil society - will be key challenges.

Pierre Ndiaye, Director General of Planning and Economic Policy, Ministry of Economy, Finance and Planning, Senegal, discussed the specific challenges related to monitoring the implementation of the SDGs at the national level, drawing on Senegal's experience. He underlined that evaluating the implementation of the MDGs proved that data will be essential to achieve the SDGs. The Senegalese authorities undertook measures to boost national statistical development by creating the National Agency for Statistics and Demography (ANSD) in 2004. This involved improving wage conditions for statisticians and increasing the production of statistics, enhancing Senegal's visibility worldwide. Mr Ndiaye stressed that significant challenges still need to be addressed, especially in implementing the SDGs. The institutional framework for monitoring the SDGs remains to be set up. First, Senegal must determine a restricted perimeter of primary indicators to follow in connection with the national development plan process. Then, the country has to broaden statistical production, including of sectoral statistics, and strengthen the leadership and performance of the ANSD. Achieving the SDGs requires defining statistics as a priority domain and investing in data production, especially by training statisticians.



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Mohammed Taamouti, Director of the Economic Department, Bank Al-Maghrib, explained how central banks are fundamental to directing money to development agendas, including implementing the SDGs. Moreover, a significant number of indicators required by the SDGs are developed by central banks, like indicators on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) transfer costs. Mr Taamouti emphasised the crucial importance of these indicators to Morocco; dedicated programs have been implemented to

strengthen capacities of SMEs and improve their growth potential, one of the objectives of the SDGs. Other actions from central banks also meet the SDGs, such as environment- friendly certification processes for banknote production.



Adrien Couton, Vice President, EMEA region and International Development, PREMISE, highlighted the potential for private companies like PREMISE to produce data for monitoring and achieving the SDGs. PREMISE was set up during the rapid development of smartphones, offering new possibilities to collect data on the ground and improve the ability to track results. PREMISE combines big data analytics and data collected by contributors on the field through their smartphones to generate real time information on prices, for example.

The main advantage of using such technological tools is that economists and policy makers are able to see immediately the results of the survey they are conducting. Mr Couton stressed that PREMISE responds to a specific demand: it is neither crowdsourcing nor a substitute for official statistics. It supports co-operation with official institutions in their work and helps them obtain data faster or data otherwise difficult to access.

Johannes Jütting, Secretariat Manager, PARIS21, reflected on the capacity of national statistical Offices (NSOs) to develop data to monitor the SDGs. He stressed the huge challenges for NSOs, in particular those from fragile states and small-island developing states to measure not only 230 indicators, but also to disaggregate those indicators by age, sex, localisation, etc. Mr Jütting highlighted three important points needed to improve the ability of NSOs to achieve the SDGs. What is first necessary is improving the capacity in all areas of statistical development, particularly fulfilling increasing demand for data from all parts of society. Second, more resources are needed. Current aid for statistical development represents USD 400-500 million per year, or less than 0.5% of total Official Development Assistance (ODA). The monitoring of the SDGs will need more resources from donors and recipient countries as well as a more efficient use of the funding. Third, more innovation is needed. Mr Jütting made the case given work by PARIS21. Such examples of innovation include the development of an online innovation inventory, efforts to improve data visualization and practical implementation of innovative practices, such as mobile phone data collection to complement surveys in Senegal.



Main takeaways

- Improving data and statistical literacy will be essential. National Statistical Offices will be paramount for monitoring the SDGs, but their capacity, leadership and resources will need to be reinforced, particularly at the sector level.
- Central banks are major actors in achieving the SDGs, as they oversee the overall financial system that finances the implementation of the SDGs, and in producing specific indicators related to financial inclusiveness and access to financial services.
- New actors from the private sector and civil society will play a key role in tracking the SDGs to complement official statistics. Private production of statistics could be used to reduce costs, while new technologies and approaches offer opportunities for producing statistics faster than with traditional surveys.

Session 4 – Financing for Development: Implementing the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action



Erik Solheim, Chair, OECD Development Assistance Committee, highlighted the three financial pillars that support development: tax, private investment and development finance. He emphasised the need to figure out how these three pillars interact with each other, and how to improve their functioning at different levels and for different contexts. Mr Solheim also mentioned the work of Ethiopia as the convener of the Addis Ababa Conference for playing an essential role in the resulting agenda.

Ahmed Shide, State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation of Ethiopia, opened his remarks by noting that the Addis Ababa Agenda for Action (AAAA) reiterated the importance of many forms of financing for sustainable development, including FDI, remittances, taxes, philanthropy, and ODA. It is important to look not just at how to mobilise these sources, but also at how they can work together. He noted that Ethiopia has been investing significantly in tax reform, in raising tax awareness, and in enhancing tax enforcement to increase revenue and improve infrastructure and human development. This improved environment is, in turn, supporting the growth of the local private sector and attracting foreign investment to Ethiopia. Mobilising ODA in support of development has been essential for Ethiopia; even with well-used domestic resources, the gap remains, and support from diverse multilateral and bilateral partners plays an essential role in building the government's capacity to mobilise domestic resources. Ethiopia continues to work to improve the tax to GDP ratio, and is aiming to reach between 17% and 20%, but this requires enhanced technical support. Ultimately, the proper budgeting of resources is needed, both the quality and quantity of spending. Development partners must complement domestic efforts with additional funding, given that ODA continues to play a crucial catalytic role in triggering other sources of finance.



Marc Bichler, Ambassador for Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Luxembourg, noted that two major global agendas – the 2030 development agenda and COP21 – both require huge financing for implementation. All sources of financing will be important to reach the level required, and determining how private investment can be leveraged through smart use of private funding will be essential. He also noted the ongoing importance of ODA. Mr Bichler made three points about what essentials are needed for climate

finance: 1) sizing up the financing need, 2) recognizing the opportunities that come with these needs and 3) determining how to use public financing as much as possible to leverage likeminded climate investments. The challenge of climate finance is the massive shift in resources required from billions to trillions, and the fact that it will be impossible to act without the private sector. Public money will not be sufficient, especially post the financial crisis. This challenge is widely recognized and acknowledged, but a shift to implementation is called for. On the second point, the opportunities that investments in low carbon economies and climate resistance offer must be considered. These investments can be channelled into infrastructure such as renewable energy, and they are often

economically viable. Governments can leverage private sector investment by putting in place an enabling environment, and they can also work to mitigate investors' real and perceived risk and ensure that investors are well informed. Attracting financing needs to take place across the full range of private actors, from pension funds to seed investors to insurance companies to green bonds, depending on their advantages and their risk appetites. Finally, the government needs to work to keep industry honest by facilitating monitoring and evaluation and rewarding best practices.



Michael Gerber, Ambassador, Special Envoy for Global Sustainable Development, Switzerland, opened by reflecting on events at Addis Abba and the important momentum they created for development finance. He congratulated the Government of Ethiopia for their diplomatic and negotiating skills, noting that the country was crucial for the success at the Addis conference. Ambassador Gerber said that the issue of finance wasn't the money itself – it already exists, but it needs to be redirected towards sustainable development instead of

being tied up in pensions, sovereign wealth funds and private accounts. The AAAA agreement shows new models and instruments of finance that can be used to support the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda. While domestic and international public resources should be leveraged for the SDGs, private finance can in many ways be aligned with sustainable development. At the same time, ODA and other forms of international public finance remain important to fill the gaps that cannot be filled by domestic or private finance, such as providing global public goods, acting in conflict-prone contexts or providing social services. Mr Gerber stated that AAAA represents not just ideas but also concrete changes that need to be made in policy and development co-operation for the SDGs. The conversation needs to shift now to implementation and how to get diverse actors involved. Although this is a complex issue, it also demonstrates the advantage of the SDGs. They are a compass that can help all actors head in the right direction. The need for action is clear to mobilise domestic resources, which are seen as the main source of SDG funding. Tax reform is difficult, but as great as the challenge is, the potential gains are enormous. It's estimated that every one dollar invested in tax administration reform results in 350 dollars in investment.

Pascal Saint-Amans, Director, Centre for Tax Policy, OECD, presented the SDGs as an extremely important development, one that has created universal goals for both developing and developed states. To achieve them, he stressed the importance of domestic resource mobilisation and of the need for greater reliance on tax. Designing a tax policy that walks the appropriate balance between growth rate, GDP per capita and the level of taxation is very complex. New access to revenue statistics across different countries provides essential insight – this includes 22 Latin American countries and 8 African countries. Having good comparable data is key to making good policy choices about tax and for addressing issues such as BEPS (base erosion and profit sharing), to which developing economies are particularly exposed. Fundamental challenges and fundamental changes are taking place right now – the end of bank secrecy and the end of high net worth individuals being able to hide their income. Instead, international co-operation is intensifying, with the Global Forum on Transparency bringing together 135 countries on equal footing to incentivise private investment and make sure that rules are not imposed on anyone. International co-operation on tax is essential, considering the global nature of the economy; you cannot have sound tax policy and administration without harmonisation with other tax administrations. Mr Saint-Amans also praised the new Tax Inspectors without Borders program that the OECD and UNDP established in partnership. The project creates a platform for tax administrators in developing economies to be paired with experienced tax inspectors who have the specific skills and expertise required for each situation.



Main takeaways

- The Addis Ababa Agenda for Action (AAAA) established the importance of many forms of financing for sustainable development, including FDI, remittances, taxes, philanthropy, and ODA.
- Having good comparable data is paramount to making good policy choices about tax and for addressing issues such as BEPS, to which developing economies are particularly exposed.
- International co-operation on tax is essential, considering the global nature of the economy; sound tax policy and administration requires harmonisation among national tax administrations.

Concluding remarks



Douglas Frantz, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD, called for reinforced partnerships to ensure that the global architecture in which the SDGs will be implemented is used effectively. He noted that the SDGs present an opportunity to work together to do nothing less than change the world.

The 2030 Agenda and its several targets and indicators call for stronger national statistical systems to support governments in making the right decisions. It also calls for transparent monitoring systems that allow stakeholders to track how countries deliver on their commitments. The OECD will be instrumental in helping countries achieve these goals by continuing to providing reinforced analytical leadership on policies, data and financing for development. The 2030 Agenda forces us to move beyond silos and implement key solutions that will be achieved through shared approaches and inclusive development, championed by governments.

The OECD strategic response to the SDGs will incorporate three main themes: First, mainstreaming or integrating the SDGs into work streams across all OECD strategies. Second, it is important to focus on accountability which implies improving the evidence base and knowledge-sharing. Third, learning, or providing space for practitioners to learn from the experiences of local and regional stakeholders. In doing so, OECD tools can be leveraged and progress can be made through hard work, co-operation and partnership.

Pierre Duquesne, Chair, Governing Board, OECD Development Centre, and Ambassador of France to the OECD, emphasised that the OECD Development Centre is a prominent intersection for developed and developing countries to come together on an equal footing. The Centre provides the vehicle for thinking through the SDGs, promoting knowledge sharing, closing data gaps, and assisting in developing methodologies and capacities to improve the international SDG monitoring framework.



Strengthening the OECD's partnership with the UN system is key. So is developing tools to support national implementation of the SDGs. The Development Centre already developed some tools that can aid progress in this area, notably the Multi-Dimensional Country Reviews (MDCRs). MDCRs harness a wide range of tools across the OECD and use them to guide country policy making. The MDCRs can therefore help to guide national implementation and evaluate progress on the SDGs as well as help countries strengthen their policy coherence across ministries involved.

It is vital that the OECD helps countries to improve their national statistical capacities for national accountability. The OECD will leverage partnerships to share best practices and engage NGOs, the private sector and civil society for effectively implementing the SDGs.



Mario Pezzini, Director, OECD Development Centre, Director a.i., Development Co-operation Directorate of the OECD, closed the Forum by noting that the OECD Development Cluster will be instrumental in drawing the contours of a new development narrative. The SDGs give universal objectives for development and well-being; the world can no longer be defined in binary terms: developed vs. non-developed, OECD vs. non-OECD. The paths to development are many, and the challenges are complex. The

current slowdown in the growth of large emerging economies and the contraction of world trade are just some of these challenges. The prospects of convergence between developing countries and OECD economies, which seemed bright a few years ago when commodity prices were high, are blurred.

Tackling these challenges will require the right policies. The OECD has an ever-evolving range of knowledge and tools for policy design that can be adapted to the specific challenges and opportunities faced by countries today. That is why the OECD is accelerating its own change, adapting its analytical lenses, narrative and communication to better understand sustainable development. Development is about inventing one's own path, not trying to follow the tracks left by others. With this approach, the OECD can address common development challenges to advance shared prosperity, productivity and inclusion.



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