

Declarations by OECD Member States on the accession of the Republic of Chile

Meeting of the OECD Council, 15 December 2009
Council Decision on the accession of Chile to the OECD



For a stronger, cleaner
fairer world economy





Her Excellency
Ms. Michelle Bachelet
President
Chile

París, 15 December 2009

Dear President,

It is an honour to inform you that the OECD Council has unanimously decided today to invite the Republic of Chile to accede to the Convention on the OECD. A copy of the Council Decision is attached to this letter.

I look forward to Chile taking its place among OECD members. This is a place it gained by its own merit. For nearly two decades, Chile has developed a strong set of policies for democratic consolidation and economic growth. More recently, in the context of the accession process, your country has taken important steps to fight bribery, improve corporate governance, strengthen tax transparency, and commit to mitigate climate change, to name but a few achievements.

The decisions made to adopt OECD instruments, benchmarks and standards helped Chile advance its domestic policy agenda and served its national interest. The OECD was pleased to perform as advisor to the government and as a catalyst for reform and progress. In turn, I expect that Chile will contribute its own expertise and perspectives on global issues to the OECD. Its accession also opens a new chapter of the OECD enlargement and its transformation into a more plural, open and inclusive institution, ready to play an increasingly important role in the international economic architecture.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you for your leadership in this remarkable outcome. We are also grateful to Minister Velasco, Co-ordinator Poniachik, Ambassador Armanet and the whole team for the excellent co-operation we have enjoyed in the run-up to accession.

The OECD will continue to support Chile in the implementation of its undertakings as part of the accession process and beyond. I look forward to working with and for Chile, as a full member of the Organisation, in forging the stronger, cleaner and fairer world economy we all want.

Yours sincerely,

Angel Gurría

DECISION OF THE COUNCIL ON THE ACCESSION OF CHILE TO THE ORGANISATION

Statement by the Secretary General



Ambassadors, Ladies and Gentlemen

It is an honour and a great pleasure to present Minister Velasco, with this Council Decision to invite Chile as the thirty first member of the OECD.

OECD members invite Chile today to join forces in fulfilling our mandate to lay the foundations of a stronger, cleaner and fairer global economy. We are proud to invite Chile and the wealth of experience it will bring to the Organisation to overcome the worst economic crisis in decades.

We look forward to Chile taking its place among the OECD members. This is a place where Chile belongs, out of sheer merit. For nearly two decades Chile has developed a strong set of policies for democratic consolidation and sound economic growth. Chile is increasingly well connected to the global economy. Chilean GDP has been growing at an average of 5 and a half per cent per year for the last twenty years. During the last two decades, successive Chilean governments have combined a strong commitment to sustainable macroeconomic policies with market-oriented structural reforms and hard work to reduce poverty and inequality. Prudent fiscal policies, including putting aside the copper bonanza “for a rainy day”, enabled Chile today to introduce significant stimulus to address the effects of the economic crisis and support aggregate demand and employment. Chile is also engaged in a continuous effort to reform its institutions. Chilean expertise will enrich the OECD on key policy issues.

The determination to build a strong economy and to address domestic and international challenges served Chile well in its drive towards the high standards of OECD membership. Chile has made significant steps in a number of areas. These include major legislative changes in response to requests by OECD Committees. The new laws show the Chilean resolve to end bank secrecy and introduce effective exchange of information for tax purposes, establish liability of legal persons for bribery, and improve corporate governance of state-owned and private companies alike. Chile also made important commitments to advance on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. Throughout the accession process, Chile undertook a host of other measures, which will ultimately ensure sustainable growth and better lives for its citizens. These were all important steps. They required dedication and strong political will. They point clearly towards the implementation of better policies. But the journey is just beginning and we will have the opportunity to celebrate in January with President Bachelet.

The accession of Chile to the OECD is, therefore, a milestone on the road for further development. President Bachelet, Minister Velasco, Co-ordinator Poniachik, Minister Fernandez, Minister Vieira Gallo, Maria Olivia Recart, Ambassador Armanet and the whole technical legal and negotiating teams demonstrated extraordinary leadership throughout the accession process. The OECD was honoured to perform throughout as advisor to the government, and as a catalyst for reform and progress. We will continue to do so in our regular work and in the context of the Chilean contributions to major OECD initiatives, such as green growth or innovation.

The accession of Chile is a contribution in our drive to transform the Organisation into a more plural and inclusive institution. This new membership also confirms our global vocation “as the club of countries that promotes and fosters best practices”, as President Bachelet has mentioned earlier this year in her address to the Council.

Emerging, developing and advanced economies need to work together to address the global challenges of our time. With Chile and Mexico as full Members and our Enhanced Engagement work with Brazil, the OECD will be much better connected to the challenges of Latin America and strengthen our links with many regions in the world.

We are very proud to invite Chile to become a member of the OECD and to join our efforts to build a stronger, cleaner and fairer world economy

DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER COUNTRIES ON THE ACCESSION OF CHILE TO THE ORGANISATION

Statement by Sweden, on behalf of the European Union



I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union.

The EU welcomes the successful conclusion of the accession negotiations with Chile and heartily supports Chile's accession to the OECD.

The EU-Chile Association Agreement signed in 2002 has imparted considerable impetus to relations between Chile and the European Union, not just in trade but also in other important areas. At the 4th EU-Chile Association Council held in Prague in May this year, Chile acknowledged the support received from the EU in the accession process to the OECD, based on longstanding cooperation and fundamental values and principles shared by both the EU and Chile. These values encompass what we understand by like-mindedness here in the OECD and we are gratified that Chile now joins the family of member states sharing them.

The EU notes with great satisfaction that Chile has taken a number of important steps through the adoption of new legislation, regulations or policy directions in many areas, including investment, corruption, fiscal affairs, corporate governance and the environment. We encourage Chile to pursue reforms, not least in areas where implementation periods have been granted.

For the OECD, the accession of Chile constitutes a positive development for a number of reasons. It is significant that Chile believes that adherence to OECD standards and practices are important and helpful in the country's economic and social development, because this sends an important signal to others. It is significant, also, that OECD can add a second country from Latin America to its membership, and this will raise the OECD's credibility and legitimacy in the region. And Chile's accession makes the OECD more relevant, and relevance was an important consideration when Council decided to invite five countries to membership negotiations in 2007.

We are confident that Chile will make important contributions to the work of the OECD and we look forward to a speedy conclusion of the remaining formalities.

Statement by Australia



Australia warmly welcomes Chile's accession to the OECD.

We congratulate Chile for having worked through the rigorous accession process, including by enacting legislative changes and other reforms to meet OECD standards.

These reforms should strengthen Chile's economic and social development.

And as one of the most dynamic developing economies in Latin America, we are confident the OECD will benefit from Chile's membership.

Chile's accession underlines that the OECD is a diverse organisation that is open to working with a wide range of countries and sends an important signal about the nature of the OECD and its global relevance.

Australia and Chile already collaborate on a wide range of issues, including by supporting further trade liberalisation in the WTO and APEC, and through our high quality free trade agreement, which entered into force this year.

We look forward to working closely with Chile in the OECD.

Statement by Canada



Canada wishes to congratulate Chile as the 31st country to join the OECD.

This is a significant moment for Chile, not only because they are the first South American country to join the OECD, but because of the tremendous effort they have undertaken domestically in terms of policy changes which will serve them well into the future.

It is also a significant moment for the OECD. It is the culmination of years of effort by its members to ensure the organization remains a relevant and effective instrument as we address the economic challenges of the 21st Century.

The accession process, together with enhanced engagement, will ensure we have an organization that is more representative and inclusive of all major economic regions of the world.

Chile will benefit from the policy analysis and advice the OECD provides to its members and from the policy experiences and best practices of OECD countries. OECD members in turn will be able to learn from the innovative policy initiatives implemented in Chile in recent years.

We therefore join with others in declaring our strong support for Chile's accession to the OECD, and we look forward to a long and fruitful collaboration in the years to come.

Statement by Korea



Korea would like to extend sincere congratulations to Chile for its membership in the OECD. Only two or three decades ago, Chile was not a country in pursuit of OECD values. However, the Chilean people have succeeded in rebuilding their country with a prosperous open-market economy, ultimately transforming itself into a role model for South America.

During the accession review, we were continuously reassured that Chile had developed along a path that the OECD often preaches in the world. Our review confirmed, for example, that Chile had opened and liberalized its market towards the world, and, for the large part, enhanced its economic, financial and social systems to a level that is comparable to the OECD *acquis*. I believe that inviting Chile to join the OECD is truly a tribute to its people and leaders for their untiring efforts to achieve political, economic and social development.

Korea also has a special reason to welcome Chile to the OECD. Chile was the first country with whom Korea concluded an FTA. We entered into this FTA partnership with Chile in 2003. Thanks to this Korea-Chile FTA, trade between Korea and Chile has tripled over last five years. In fact, Korea and Chile share very similar development experiences, representing two success stories on the Asian and Latin American continents respectively.

I would like to remind all of you that this is an occasion to congratulate not only Chile but also the OECD itself and its members. During the 2007 Ministerial Council meeting, our Ministers resolved a several-year wrangle over expansion of OECD membership and decided to launch an accession review for five candidate countries. Now, in two years' time, Chile is the first case which has borne fruit, with other candidates expected soon to follow.

Expanded membership will pose new opportunities and challenges for the OECD. Along with most other members, I hope that Chile's membership, together with that of other

candidate countries, will inject new blood into the OECD, revitalizing a half-century old organisation.

With its increasing number of members, the OECD will be given the chance to become a more balanced and diversified international organisation, and hence enhance its relevance and impact in the world. However, such benefits are not guaranteed. Enlarged membership could also undermine like-mindedness among us, making consensus decisions more difficult. It is therefore our task to make the most of our relationship with new members, so that these can lead to the mutual benefits intended by the enlargement of membership.

To close, I would like to congratulate and once again welcome Chile to the OECD family. Indeed, Chile deserves the OECD membership.

Statement by the United States



The United States congratulates Chile on its accession to the OECD. Chile's fast-track accession process was made possible by sound and consistent economic policies and by strong political will throughout the government. It has been an impressive performance.

During President Bachelet's recent visit to Washington, President Obama congratulated President Bachelet for "managing the Chilean economy and the political process in Chile in such an excellent fashion" The United States and Chile have very strong commercial ties, in part because of the free trade agreement that exists between Chile and the US. In addition we have recently announced cooperative projects on clean energy and seeking cooperation on science and technology. And Chile has entered into partnerships with state governments like California as well.

President Obama said that "Chile is to be congratulated on having managed their economy and their fiscal surpluses during good times in such a way that they have now been able to manage the bad times in a good way." He said that it is "an example for all of us that good fiscal policy and good economic policy ultimately allows for prosperity - through good times and bad times." It is certainly worthy of note that Chile has implemented its reforms in such a way that it has reduced its poverty level from 40% down to 13%. And it has engaged in an aggressive infrastructure investment agenda as well.

Chile used the accession process as it should be used – to implement important reforms that will make the country a more attractive place to invest and do business, and provide increased protections and opportunities for its citizens.

In particular, the United States would like to acknowledge and commend the work Chile has done to implement corporate governance reforms and revise its bank secrecy laws and fight corruption as part of the accession process. Chile took great strides in many areas, including in institutional reform in the environmental field. These reforms should have a positive impact on environmental policy implementation in Chile.

We also commend Chile's progress on and commitment to further continued action on intellectual property issues.

Chile's accession reminds us that this is an exciting time of growth and expansion for the OECD. The world is changing, and the OECD is changing with it. No longer a "Rich Man's Club" the OECD has shown that best practices and sound economic policies can be shared by diverse countries with different income levels – and that this process of enlargement both

enriches our deliberations and expands the reach of the OECD in the global economy – and ultimately ensures the future relevance of the organization.

Chile's accession will give the OECD a strong platform in South America to reach out to new partners and expand the influence of the OECD and the values and high standards that it promotes.

As we celebrate Chile's accession, the United States looks forward to the contributions that we know Chile will make as a full member.

Statement by Japan



As a century-old friend of Chile, Japan wholeheartedly supports the Council decision to formally invite Chile to accede to the OECD Convention. Our bilateral relationship has been particularly flourishing since 1990 based on principles of democracy and respect of human rights. The Economic Partnership Agreement between our two countries, which entered into force in 2007, has provided further momentum.

Japan welcomes the series of important measures Chile has taken in the accession process to move closer to the OECD standards and practices. We hope that Chile, building upon these steps and taking advantage of the accession to the OECD, will continue to make further reform efforts, including appropriate protection of Intellectual Property Rights, and thus elevate its economy to an even higher level.

The accession of Chile will be of great value to the OECD. As the first member from South America and another from the Asia-Pacific region, Japan hopes and believes that Chile's accession will make the Organization more diverse and more relevant.

Statement by Switzerland



Switzerland wholeheartedly welcomes the accession of Chile to the OECD. We congratulate its government for the enormous progress made in the process of the accession period. It has raised a great number of its policies to OECD standards. We welcome Chile also as a further small open economy, just like Switzerland, that stands to benefit most from a multilateral system based on the same values and standards.

It is not a coincidence that Switzerland, as part of EFTA, has concluded a comprehensive Free Trade Agreement that is in force since December 2004. It covers all major areas of trade relations, including goods, services, investment, procurement, competition and intellectual property. Since then, bilateral trade has almost doubled. Only last year (2008), the two countries have signed a double tax agreement. Switzerland ranks number ten as investor country in Chile.

For a number of years now Chile has been a beacon of development in Latin America. Its government has raised incomes and reduced poverty like no other country in the region, with policies, rooted in the rule of law and good governance, that compare very favourably with those of present OECD members. Its income levels have reached or surpassed those of other countries which have been members of the OECD for years.

What Chile's aspiration to accede ultimately proves is that OECD membership, its values, standards, and instruments are still pertinent, are a worthwhile objective for a country to

achieve, this should be a strong signal for all members to defend these principles, in particular our shared values of like-mindedness and of peaceful economic competition on shared rules.

Competition on a level-playing field, for Switzerland, implied in the past and will imply in the future, that OECD members compete on an equal footing throughout the landscape of international organisations, coherent with the aims and undertakings of the OECD as stated in the Convention and with their position as a member of the Organisation, leaving old privileges behind once our level of development allows us to do so.

The OECD remains an attractive Organisation for new members like Chile because the OECD has succeeded in keeping these standards high and because we live up to them. The accession process of Chile and its impressive policy track record do not leave any doubt that our new member will participate fully in this convergence process.

Statement by Norway



Norway warmly welcomes Chile's accession to the OECD.

In an increasingly globalised world, it's no secret that the OECD is striving for relevance. And we are succeeding relatively well, in the sense that we are contributing to international efforts in areas where we have a comparative advantage.

But to keep our relevance and credibility we also need to be perceived as representative, - and not as "the rich man's club" we are sometimes accused of being. Throughout the 1990s we did broaden our geographical scope, as Mexico, Korea and several of our eastern European friends became members of the OECD. We became more far-reaching, stronger and more relevant.

Today we welcome Chile to join our organisation. Over the last decades Chile has seen remarkable economic progress - being Latin America's fastest growing economy through the 1990s. And economic progress has also translated into social reforms; among them a pension's reform acclaimed for its innovative traits. We are pleased to see that the accession process with the OECD has further strengthened this wave of reforms. Over the last two years Chile has shown an incredible readiness and willingness to adjust to OECD best practise, standards and instruments.

Norway has a longstanding and profound relationship with Chile, and our cooperation goes a long way back. Now we look forward to working together within the framework of the OECD. A cooperation I am convinced will be of strong mutual benefit.

Statement by New Zealand



New Zealand is pleased to join others in congratulating Chile on being invited to accede to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

Chile has made commendable reforms in order to align itself with OECD standards and best practices. New Zealand appreciates the enthusiasm and commitment with which Chile has made these reforms and the positive and constructive nature of Chile's engagement with the OECD committees and secretariat during the accession process.

As members of the WTO, APEC and the Trans Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership Agreement, New Zealand and Chile share a common belief in economic and trade liberalisation processes as well as a shared commitment to transparency and good governance.

New Zealand has strongly supported Chile's accession throughout the accession process and welcomes the prospect of having another APEC member in the organisation, particularly one from the southern hemisphere with whom we share many common interests and concerns.

We now look forward to working with Chile in the OECD to further our mutual interests, and the interests of all OECD members.

Statement by Iceland



Iceland welcomes the conclusions of the negotiations with Chile and warmly supports Chile's accession to the OECD.

Chile and Iceland as countries with important natural resources have well developed fisheries sectors. The management of these resources is an important area of cooperation between our countries having concluded a bilateral agreement in 2002 on fisheries management and fisheries research. This cooperation has resulted in scientific cooperation between universities in Iceland and Chile. Iceland particularly looks forward to further cooperation with Chile through the Fisheries Committee of the OECD and is convinced that the membership of Chile will give added relevance to the work in this field within the OECD.

Iceland and the EFTA countries concluded a Free Trade Agreement with Chile in 2003, and Iceland and Chile have bilateral Investment and Agricultural Agreements. Chile is an important partner for Iceland sharing common views and interests.

Iceland congratulates Chile on its accession to the OCED and looks forward to a deepening of relations and a fruitful cooperation.

Statement by Turkey



Allow me to join with our colleagues in expressing our delight at Chile's accession to our Organisation.

Chile is a Latin American country with which Turkey enjoys excellent bilateral relations and we have closely followed its economic reforms and performances over the past few years.

It is against this background that my country strongly supports Chile's accession to the OECD, which we feel will lend new strength to the Organisation and add a new dimension to the role it wishes to play at global level.

We are confident that the presence of Chile in this forum will contribute to our joint efforts, and in view of Chile's performances since it applied for membership we are equally confident that it will successfully meet its commitments.

Statement by the Slovak Republic



It is almost 10 years ago when Slovakia successfully completed its accession process to the OECD and has become a 30th and last member of the organisation. It is therefore a great privilege for me to participate to the achievement of an accession process, and to an invitation of another country to become a full OECD member.

In May 2007, as a member of the OECD Council, I was present at the moment the launch of the process leading to OECD membership was approved, and today I have the opportunity not only to represent my country, but also to welcome a new country in my capacity as Dean of the OECD Council. We are well aware of how complicated and difficult the accession process has been for your country. Considerable effort had to be expended in order to satisfy all of the criteria imposed by the various committees. A number of Chilean ministers took part personally in the discussions within the committees, thereby helping to bring the accession process to a swift and efficient conclusion. As Madame Michelle Bachelet, your country's President, pointed out at the time of her visit to the Council on 28 May 2009, the OECD is undergoing rapid change, and today it is a different organisation from the one we knew in the past. We are convinced that these continuous changes are the driving force of this organisation and are enabling it to bolster its position and its importance in international entities.

Today is a very important day not only for Chile, but also for our whole organisation. By becoming a member, not only you, as a new member country, will have the opportunity to participate to OECD discussions and to acquire best practices from the organisation. The OECD will equally profit from your membership, by bringing a new perspective to the issues discussed. The organisation will also be able to learn from the experience/best practice of your country. Membership of Chile will equally raise the OECD's credibility and legitimacy in the Latin American region. Slovakia welcomes the successful conclusion of the accession negotiations with Chile.

Statement by Mexico



Two and a half years only after the Ministers' call in May 2007, we open a new chapter of the OECD's history with the accession of Chile. It will be the first of five countries that are part of a strategy of this Organization to be more inclusive, globalized and relevant. As Mexico was the first in the round of accession that closed with Slovakia 10 years ago, Chile opens this new round.

Chile is the first to join, thanks to economic and social policies that were already very close to the OECD standards, and prodigious efforts to adapt its legislation in such a short time in key areas that were not yet aligned with the OECD practice. These were, in particular, the governance of public enterprises, the internal legal application of the Anti-bribery Convention, and the exchange of bank information for tax purposes. It is worth noting that the Chilean government even decided to establish a Ministry of the environment, following an OECD advise to improve the implementation of its environment policies. We also extend a recognition to the restless work of committees and the Secretariat, examining as never before the stance of a candidate country in twenty technical areas.

We applaud the determination and commitment of Chile to reach these positive results within the timeframe its government had established. This is no wonder. As Pablo Neruda, the great poet and diplomat, wrote about his country in 1939, "our land only renders its effort to those who work it hardly". [Nuestra tierra sólo entrega su esfuerzo a quien la trabaja duramente].

Mexico warmly welcomes not only the second Latin American member to the OECD, but also one of its closest allies in the continent. Last August, Mexico and Chile commemorated the tenth anniversary of their free trade agreement, which enabled the exchange of goods between both countries to increase three times. After Brazil, Chile is Mexico's second trade partner in Latin America's. In 2006, this special relationship was strengthened when both governments signed a Strategic Association Agreement, that encompasses all bilateral cooperation, including political cooperation.

Mexico and Chile, two key actors and solid democracies of Latin America and the Caribbean, face similar economic and social challenges. We are convinced that through the OECD, we can improve our public policies, create more wealth and address issues like inequality and a better education for all children. Our perspectives will enrich the discussions within the Organization, especially in the realm of social policies and development.

Working together for the development of Latin America from two different hemispheres, we will have the opportunity to join our voices and support the OECD analytical framework, standards and practices in a continent still in search of better public policies to its struggles for development. In key issues such as sustainable and green growth, creation of jobs, innovation, fight against poverty, better education and health, we know that the OECD can help through evidence-based solutions.

The accession of Chile also strengthens the newly launched OECD Regional Approach with Latin America and the Caribbean, an initiative that will help better structure the work the OECD is already doing in the region, in areas such as access to public services to reduce poverty and inequality; investment promotion; innovation policy strategies and approaches, and improving taxation and public expenditure. Chile has announced its intention to join.

Under your guidance, the OECD is gaining a truly global status, particularly in these hard times of economic uncertainties. Thus come to my mind words from the great Mexican thinker and Nobel Prize, Octavio Paz, that I believe capture the moment we are living:

Today we all speak, if not the same tongue, the same universal language. There is no one center, and time has lost its former coherence: East and West, yesterday and tomorrow exist as a confused jumble in each one of us. Different times and different spaces are combined in a here and now that is everywhere at once.

On behalf of President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa and Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa, we warmly welcome our friend country Chile to the OECD. ¡*Bienvenidos a la OCDE!*

Statement by Germany



It is a great pleasure to welcome today Chile as new OECD member. From the beginning Germany has always strongly supported Chile's accession. Over many years Chile has proved to be the great macro-economic anchor and example for stability not only in the Latinamerican region but also worldwide.

Sound and reliable policies with the involvement of all relevant actors have contributed to this exemplary story of success. This has also been proven true in the accession process. Over these last years Chile has always acted fairly and with a will to engage and to comply with the terms and conditions to accede OECD as a full member.

Our clear assessment is, that Chile will continue to proceed on this path of stability and reliance. It therefore shows that an alignment with the OECD policies leads to economic success. We very much hope that this will serve as a good example not only for future accessions to OECD by other countries, but also to the adjacent countries in Latin America.

Again and in German: *Herzlich willkommen zur OECD!*

Statement during the Council of the 11 December 2009

Statement by Portugal



Portugal warmly supports Chile's accession to the OECD and we fully agree with a formal Decision to be taken by the Council on December the 15th. If so agreed, it will be timely and it will be fair.

On the technical side, Chile has completed successfully its roadmap, giving tangible proof of its earnestness in accepting the OECD acquis. True, in a few limited areas our Chilean counterparts asked for certain technical reservations; yet, Santiago also accepted that they will be limited in time.

On the political side, Chile is a fully-fledged democracy, a State that respects Human Rights and abides by the Rule-of-Law. Also, Chile has a benevolent influence in its region, South America and on a more transatlantic approach we should not neglect that Santiago is a highly regarded member of the Ibero-American Conference.

For the OECD, Chile's accession will be the tangible proof that it is erroneous to continue to portray the Organization as a no more than a sort of a club open to and serving exclusively the interests of affluent countries, preferably if located in the North Hemisphere. It is thus a signal that the Organization is serious in its claim for relevance and plurality.

In sum, Secretary General, we wholeheartedly say yes to Chile, counting on it as an additional added-value for the OECD.

Written declarations

Statement by France



France is especially pleased to welcome Chile to the OECD, confirming the success of that country's economic development ambitions.

France has always supported Chile's accession to the OECD, convinced of its very great potentialities. France would like to emphasise that a historic friendship unites our two countries insofar as we share the same values and the same struggles on the international scene: cultural diversity, human rights, the strengthening of multilateralism. Our relations are excellent, as reflected by President Bachelet's visit to Paris last May.

Chile is a model of economic success in Latin America, and its growth potential is substantial. The country is well equipped to weather the current crisis, thanks to its financial

solidity. Moreover, Chile has taken steps to mitigate the impact of the crisis on the disadvantaged. France salutes this balanced, coherent and effective economic policy in a difficult context.

It is also the result of the accession process itself which has acted as a catalyst for progress and reforms in Chile, bringing the country closer to OECD standards and best practices. For instance, in a very brief span of time Chile has successfully adopted a whole set of important legislation to which France is deeply committed, including exchange of banking information for tax purposes, responsibility of legal entities in cases of bribery of foreign public officials and greater incorporation of environmental issues. These changes are a reflection of both Chile's strong reactivity and its desire to be a full participant in the reform of world economic governance that was initiated within the G20 and to which the OECD is being called on to take part, in its areas of competence and by its proposals.

France earnestly hopes that Chile's membership of the OECD will be a vector of closer political and economic co-operation between our two countries. France assures Chile of its support and its confidence in achieving that objective.

Statement by Italy



Following the kind invitation by the Secretary General of the OECD to provide the Secretariat with additional written statements on the accession of Chile, Italy would like to offer the following message.

Italy identifies itself fully with the position expressed by the European Union at the Council meeting of the 15th of December 2009.

Italy warmly welcomes the accession of Chile to the OECD following the invitation extended in 2007 and a thorough process of review that has led to the conclusion that it is willing and able to assume the obligations of membership, abiding by the OECD fundamental values.

This is a very significant development as it regards a country that has gone through difficult times during its history in the course of the XX century and today it can feel very proud about realizing such an achievement that has involved a great deal of effort in the reform of important sectors of Chile's political, administrative and social realm. Such a result also demonstrates the ability of the OECD to be a powerful instrument of change.

Considering Chile's accession from a broader regional perspective, it can be added that the ever-growing relationship between the OECD and Latin America is a mutually beneficial process for both the actors and the rest of the world.

Finally, Italy would like to express its satisfaction for having given also its contribution at a national level in order to facilitate the accession process of Chile to the Organization, at the request of Chilean authorities and with the co-operation of the OECD Secretariat, through targeted interventions in relevant areas.

Statement by Netherlands



The Netherlands acclaims the unanimous Council decision to invite Chile in our midst as a member of the OECD. This marks the culmination of a process, in which the people of Chile have earned our great admiration. First and foremost because of the historic choice they

made for freedom, democracy and respect for human rights, thus putting an end to a dark era in Chile's history. My country's close ties with Chile particularly date from that period, when many Chileans sought refuge in the Netherlands. But we also admire the impressive achievements by successive Chilean governments during subsequent years: achievements based on sound macro-economic policies, successfully relying on market forces and entrepreneurship, coupled with efforts aimed at fighting social exclusion and enhancing social cohesion. Bringing about sustainable growth and a fairer distribution of wealth are at the heart of these policies. This remains a challenge, but, given its prudent policies in times of prosperity, we feel confident that Chile - as one of the most open and successful economies of Latin-America - will continue to be able to weather the financial and economic crisis, while preserving its efforts in the social field.

These two factors - democratic values and sound economic policies - have led to today's decision. In the framework of the accession process, important changes in Chilean legislation have been realised. It now comes to the implementation in practice of the new rules, which we will follow attentively.

As a consequence of our continuous quest for more well-being, the challenges facing the world community in the twenty-first century are enormous and the stakes are high. Environment and climate change, but also issues like energy security, economic recovery and youth unemployment, to name a few, call for increased cooperation between countries with converging views. We are eagerly looking forward to work with Chile as an important partner on economic, social, environmental and scientific issues within the multilateral OECD framework and to share best practices in these areas. Given the active and resolute attitude of our prospective new member during the last two and a half years, we are fully confident that Chile will emerge as an enormous enrichment to this organisation and to us all.

Declaration by Chile in response to the invitation



Mr. Secretary General Angel Gurría, permanent representatives of OECD members, dear friends:

This is an important moment for my country.

On behalf of President Michelle Bachelet, the Government and the people of Chile, I thank you all for inviting Chile to subscribe the OECD Convention and to become a member of this organization.

We are extremely grateful for the diligent and excellent work of the Secretariat, the legal directorate, the chairs of the OECD bodies that examined Chile and the heads of the directorates involved in the accession process. Without their dedication and commitment to review Chile's public policies in only two years, we could not have reached this goal. Thank you very much.

Some times I am asked why Chile belongs in a club of "rich countries". Such a question makes an incorrect assumption about the nature and purpose of this organization.

My government's answer has always been that the OECD is first and foremost an association of democratic nations. We are proud to belong to such a group of nations. A long dictatorship reminded us painfully, in case anyone required reminding, of the crucial virtues of democratic governance.

This is also an organization for economic cooperation. It was created on the belief that without cooperation in the sphere of economic policy-making it would be extremely difficult to reconstruct Europe after the war. Then, countries outside Europe became members, expanding the organization's global reach. Finally, beginning in the 90s, emerging economies and a number of transition economies also joined. All members, old and new, share a belief in cooperation –domestic as well as international— as indispensable to attain economic development and improve human well-being.

Last but certainly not least, the OECD is a one-stop shop for best practices. Lasting economic growth and development are always the result of good policies –rigorously designed, systematically applied and transparently explained to our citizens.

The search for good policies to improve education, create jobs, or foster innovation is never easy. But this building is one place where that search is likely to be fruitful. By joining the OECD we hope to learn. But we also hope to share what we have learned – about, for instance, fiscal policy, pension reform or social protection. We will bring new perspectives on old issues, and perhaps suggest new issues altogether. We can be a bridge between OECD members and non-members, spreading the word about best practices while also bringing to this table the concerns of emerging nations.

The OECD would not have accepted Chile if its member were not convinced that we share the goals of the organization and that we meet its standards. We will contribute to the OECD's goals and to the implementation of new decisions and recommendations.

Membership in the OECD means that we are a democratic society committed to economic development through successful public policies, designed and applied through consensus and cooperation.

That is exactly what Chile has been doing for the last quarter-century. Now, as members of the OECD, with the benefit of your experience and advice, we will do more of it, and do it better.

It is a challenge. We will rise to it.

Thank you very much."

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