BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES EVERYWHERE
We live in difficult times, where the values of openness, multilateralism and co-operation are being questioned. Yet I know for a fact that international dialogue and co-operation deliver. And I am profoundly convinced they are more necessary than ever. The OECD Development Centre offers a unique platform where countries at all levels of development can advance a common understanding on what policies work in different contexts, and on how to reshape international co-operation in support of these policies.

Ambassador Manuel Escudero, Chair of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD

President John F. Kennedy established the OECD Development Centre on 17 May 1961: in an address to the Canadian Parliament, he proposed a forum where countries, rich and poor, could “study in common the problems of economic development”.

Today, Agenda 2030 and the Sustainable Development Goals demand that all countries work together as equals to find solutions to global challenges, giving our mission a new relevance.

The Centre’s ability to provide a unique, inclusive platform for knowledge sharing and evidence-based policy dialogue hinges around its membership: its Governing Board is open to both OECD and non-OECD countries, at various stages of development.

Those countries jointly define and fund the Centre’s Programme of Work and Budget, and interact on an equal footing on its various platforms: High-level Meetings of the Governing Board, Mutual Learning Group of the multi-dimensional reviews, Policy dialogues on natural resources, global value chains and productive transformation, and women’s economic empowerment.

Exchanges on Development in Transition, quality infrastructure, and migration and development.
2018-2019 KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

Burkina Faso drew from the findings of our Social Institutions and Gender Index to reform its law on Violence Against Women, which criminalised marital rape.

The African Union Commission made us their partner in their Africa’s Development Dynamics report. We are also invited to support an African Observatory for Migration and Development.

Kyrgyzstan used our analysis to reform state benefits and implement its social protection strategy.

Multi-dimensional Country Reviews spurred institutional innovations in Côte d’Ivoire (Observatory of financial services) and Peru (Metropolitan Transport Authorities).

Our 2019 Economic Outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India report contributed to the ASEAN Smart Cities Initiative.

Through dedicated networks, we engage with about 100 companies (EMnet), 50 foundations (netFWD) and dozens of sustainable development advocates (DevCom).

Colombia has been implementing the recommendations of its Production Transformation Policy Review, integrating its digital and economic transformation agendas.

We helped natural resource-rich developing countries and multinational companies jointly craft Guiding Principles for Durable Extractive Contracts.
Development is more complex than moving from the “developing country” category to “developed”: it is a continuous and reversible process. It follows a diversity of pathways, depending on a country’s geography and history. It has multiple economic, social and environmental dimensions, which income levels do not fully capture.

Improving lives in developing countries cannot be left to economic growth alone, nor can policy solutions to structural challenges be reproduced from past experience. Governments have to co-create those solutions with a wide array of public and private actors at international, sub-regional and local levels.

FROM RESEARCH AND DIALOGUE TO ACTION

The Development Centre helps policy makers in OECD and non-OECD countries design better policies, practices and partnerships both at home and internationally. It identifies policy solutions for growth, poverty alleviation and the reduction of inequality, relevant to each country’s context by:

- Producing multidisciplinary analysis on key development issues.
- Providing a platform for policy dialogue and learning between OECD and non-OECD countries.
- Influencing the international debate on sustainable development.
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