Thank you very much Mr. Chairman. Ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Vice-minister of Multilateral Affairs and Cooperation from the Republic of Panama, Mrs. Erika Mouynes, we salute you all. It is an honour to be part of the 6th High-Level Meeting of the Governing Board of the OECD Development Centre.

At the international level, we aspire to strengthen the global alliance for sustainable development, to restructure the global financial architecture that allows a fairer and more equitable access of financial resources to less favoured countries, alleviating the heavy burden of debt to the most vulnerable countries, the implementation of an inclusive financial strategy that commits international cooperation with development and social protection.

We have the firm conviction that if we strive to achieve these purposes, adverse circumstances will no longer be an obstacle to achieving the necessary international cooperation that will facilitate the accompaniment, technical assistance and access to the necessary financing for the proper execution of the public policies that allow us to respond to the needs of the population aggravated by the pandemic.

Undoubtedly, investments in health and social protection must be considered as global priorities. For this, multilateral organizations, both in the field of health and those of the broad social spectrum, as well as international financing institutions, play a fundamental role.

Panama has been attentive to the various initiatives that have been analysed at the multilateral level in order to identify possible joint actions that can help us overcome this crisis.
We have supported initiatives and proposals that propose a closer and individualized look, by the International Financial Organizations, of the financial situation of the most affected countries in order to grant them a differentiated treatment in renegotiations and / or debt relief. As well as we have applauded the “Debt Service Suspension Initiative” (DSSI) agreed in April by the World Bank Development Committee and the G-20 Finance Ministers.

Regarding the issue of Health and specifically access to vaccines, Panama shares the calls made by several countries and by the Secretary General of the United Nations for equitable and widely available access to the vaccine against Covid19.

Panama is contributing directly to the global movement to face the situation of the pandemic by offering to carry out in its territory the Phase 2 trial studies of the vaccine produced by the German company CureVac, in a group of 250 volunteers, which began in September.

In this process of development and access to vaccines, it is imperative that the most developed countries, with the appropriate technology for the research that is required, become aware that nationalism cannot exist and that vaccines must be available to all countries at the same time, not only for goodwill reasons, but also as a way to control the virus simultaneously.

Congratulations to the OECD for opening a space to discuss these important matters in such a prestigious forum. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the government of the Republic of Panama remain available to exchange experiences and opportunities to find a way to forward in this global fight, working together.

For your attention, we thank you.