

Meeting of the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development

Opening remarks by DSG Rintaro Tamaki

Paris, 7 November 2012

Dear focal points,
Colleagues from the European Commission,
Representatives of civil society organisations,
Distinguished participants,
Colleagues and friends,

Welcome to the OECD and thank you for joining us for this autumn Meeting of the National Focal Points for Policy Coherence for Development (PCD).

This is the second time we meet in this year, but the first time since the endorsement of the OECD Strategy on Development by the Ministerial Council last May.

I am pleased to see that the network of national focal points PCD has started to meet in a more regular basis. This is particularly important as we are now moving forward with the implementation of the Strategy on Development.

As you know PCD – together with knowledge sharing – is a cross-cutting priority in this endeavour. We can't do this alone. We need your help. We attach great importance to the significant role that you can play in helping us to achieve the PCD objectives of the Strategy.

Today we have the privilege of the participation of a diverse and distinguished group of specialists as well as of the OECD experts from different areas. Thank you very much for being here with us.

A new global reality calls for new approaches on PCD

The OECD Strategy on development responds to the need to adapt our approaches to fast changing global realities. Our work on PCD also needs to evolve and reflect:

- a more multi-polar global economy, with increasing wealth creation and knowledge generation in developing regions;
- a new geography of global poverty, with a growing proportion of the world's poor living in middle income countries;
- a new configuration of the international development architecture, with emerging and developing countries playing an increasingly important role as a source of finance, trade, investment, and innovation; and
- a more complex context where multiplying global value chains are changing the patterns of international trade.

It is clear that our approaches to PCD as well as the narratives that provide the understanding of the dynamics of the global economy need updating.

We see a greater interconnectedness of countries' economies and cross-border externalities, influencing the global distribution of income. There is also a growing need to manage global public goods – and “bads” – such as climate change, conflict and illicit financial flows. Collective action and greater coherence are crucial.

The policy coherence lens from a broader perspective is more useful than ever with its potential to cut across different policy domains, to connect diverse stakeholders and actors, and to shape and monitor efforts, changes in policies and impacts.

PCD in the new context is really about designing mutually reinforcing policies for development through collective international efforts. This calls for policy dialogue between OECD and partner countries.

Up until now, dialogue on PCD has been carried out mainly among donors. And this dialogue has had a narrow focus on coherence between aid and non-aid policies. It has failed to provide a larger context and get the feedback from all stakeholders.

We need to create the spaces to promote a more systematic dialogue with and feedback from developing countries – first, to build a common understanding on PCD and, second, to generate the necessary evidence to inform policy and convince decision makers to act.

Developing countries can also benefit from this dialogue. From a broader perspective policy coherence has a domestic dimension and applies to both developed and developing economies. National governments in all countries can themselves maximise the growth and poverty reduction impact of their own policies by assessing and effectively tackling their possible incoherencies.

With the OECD Strategy on Development our work on PCD will adopt a “two-track approach”.

- First, we will continue to respond to the needs of our members for evidence on the costs and benefits of non-aid policies on developing countries.
- And second, we will complement these efforts by applying a broader approach to PCD and looking at other dimensions.

This will help us to update the PCD narrative to respond more effectively to the post-2015 period. Such a narrative would be more consistent with the post-Busan (and OECD Development Strategy) understanding of the new global landscape.

New approaches need new instruments

Our work will also look at ways to develop effective instruments to monitor and assess progress on PCD. The “million-dollar question”: what are the implications of all this when it comes to measuring PCD?

This morning, we will set the global context for this discussion and explore “*what*” it is we want to measure and “*why*”.

The afternoon session will be a more practical exercise, looking primarily at the “*how*”, and explore how OECD expertise and measurements can contribute to the PCD measurement agenda.

These are important issues that cannot be solved in a one-day meeting. In fact, they will probably lead to even more questions!

This is why we see today as the beginning of a continuous process, one that we can take forward collectively, with your support and with the help of existing mechanisms and tools, such as the web-based PCD Platform.

Unfortunately, I am not able to stay all day, but I wish you a very good meeting and look forward to hearing about the outcomes.

I am now happy to hand over to Ambassador Pawel Wojciechowski who will introduce and chair today's first session.