Ministers, business leaders and eminent academics are to meet in Paris on 20th January in their personal capacity to discuss likely long-term developments in employment and unemployment and to explore some of the risks and opportunities that changes in the world of work and in society at large may bring in the decades ahead. The meeting will be chaired by the Secretary-General of the OECD, Jean-Claude Paye.

Social cohesion in OECD countries is under increasing pressure, not least from the current high levels of unemployment. And looking ahead, the international and domestic forces that have been putting so much pressure on OECD labour markets -- and indeed on societies more generally -- seem set to continue. Four distinct sessions will address this general subject:

- **Session 1:** outlook for growth and employment over the next 10-15 years or so, including the long-term evolution of the world economy and underlying driving forces.

- **Session 2:** assessment of where the number of jobs is likely to expand or decline, of changes in occupations and job profiles that can be expected in the coming years and challenges for education and training, and for government policy more generally.

- **Session 3:** focus on the changing relationship of work, leisure and other work-unrelated activities, and how these are affected by shifting social values.

- **Session 4:** social cohesion in OECD countries, the pressures bearing on the traditional structures of society, and new developments in social organisation which may shed a positive light on the future evolution of OECD societies.
Additional documentation concerning this conference, including the Main Issues paper on which participants will draw, is available on request from the OECD Press Division, 2 rue André Pascal, 75775 Paris cedex 16.

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