

## High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

### OECD General Debate Statement

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am privileged to be with you today.

My message is simple: The OECD and its members are committed to using Agenda 2030 to go from the world we have to the world we want.

The OECD is upgrading its work to support the 2030 Agenda. This means helping our member countries look in the mirror. And it means helping our partner countries that are most vulnerable.

Last month, I presented the OECD's Action Plan on the SDGs at our annual ministerial meeting, which was chaired by her Excellency President Michelle Bachelet of Chile.

Our Action Plan describes how we will use existing OECD data, policy tools, and dialogue platforms to help governments build capacity and implement the SDGs.

We talk a lot about policy coherence and the SDGs. It's true: These goals must be viewed in an integrated, horizontal fashion.

But equally important is the need for POLITICAL COHERENCE. Going from talk to action will require development expertise AND political will.

OECD members will lead by example.

We are developing a tool to assess the starting positions of our member countries on the SDGs. We will estimate the distance countries have to travel to meet specific targets.

This will help each country identify where they have work to do. And all of our relevant expertise will be used to help design the policies to bridge the gaps.

Our analysis will examine the spill-over effects of our members' policies – positive and negative. And we will determine the impact of spill-overs on the ability of other countries to achieve the SDGs.

The process will accomplish two critical objectives.

First, our Members will demonstrate their commitment to the SDGs by leading the way.

Second, the OECD's strengths in analysis, capacity building and policy development will support not only our Members, but every country on the path to 2030.

## High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

We are not diverting our focus or our resources from the poorest and most vulnerable people. Official Development Assistance, coordinated by the OECD, remains critical to guaranteeing that no one is left behind.

Here is a compelling fact: Bilateral aid to the poorest countries increased by 4 percent in real terms last year.

We're modernizing the way we measure and use development finance. ODA will have its greatest impact in conjunction with new domestic resources, private investment, remittances, and philanthropic contributions.

The OECD is working cooperatively – under UN leadership and in partnership with national and local governments, the private sector, and civil society. Believe me, there is plenty of work to go around.

One example of this broad outreach is the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. I invite you to join us at the next high-level meeting in Nairobi in late November.

If we work together – rich countries and poor countries, private sector and public sector – we can move from the world we have to the world we want.