Update on the OECD's contribution to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Submission of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to the 2018 United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

April 2018

FOREWORD

This year is a special one for OECD – United Nations relations, marking the 20th anniversary of the Organisation's participation, as a Permanent Observer, in the work of the UN General Assembly. It is a relationship that continues to grow from strength to strength.

The OECD is proud to have participated in the development of the precursor to the SDGs – the Millennium Development Goals. They succeeded in focusing minds, and in bringing international support where it was most needed. The SDGs, however, aim to reflect the world that we live in today – and the one that we want to live in thirteen years from now.

The SDGs encourage us to take a fresh look. This means designing solutions to tackle poverty and inequality, wherever they may exist, and promoting green growth. It also means looking more closely at the interlinkages between Goals, and obstacles, and to find the right policies to manage trade-offs and complementarities. Finally, we need to look at all resources – public and private, domestic and international – and to see how they can best be pieced together to achieve lasting prosperity for all.

The focus of this year's UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on "Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies" resonates well with our efforts at the OECD to put people and well-being at the centre of all policy making. The OECD's mission to promote better lives drives our ambition to help countries design policies that concentrate on quality, equity, and fairness for growth that is sustainable, inclusive and robust.

The 2030 Agenda gives us a blueprint. We now need to deliver it. The OECD's Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals sets out some of the ways in which our Organisation can support countries as they work to deliver on the Goals. In March this year, we had the opportunity to take stock of progress in these and other efforts at a special meeting of the OECD Council with partners, bringing together Ministers and senior officials from over 60 countries and organisations. I cannot stress enough the importance of continued dialogue and the sharing of experiences among countries at all levels of development as they embark on the challenges of implementing the SDGs.

The HLPF plays a crucial role in sustaining momentum, in providing a setting for the exchange of ideas, and in helping to raise the bar. The OECD will continue to play its part, putting its know-how, evidence, and tools at the disposal of interested countries. In all of these efforts and others, the OECD will continue to work *with* and *for* the United Nations in the design, development and delivery of Better Policies for Better Lives.

Angel Gurría
Secretary-General

The 2018 Meeting of the Members of the OECD Council and Partners on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Highlights

Since 2017, the OECD has held an annual meeting with partner countries and institutions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2018 Meeting of the Members of the OECD Council and Partners on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development took place at the OECD headquarters in Paris on 14 March and was opened by Angel Gurría, OECD Secretary General, and Ambassador Marie Chatardová, President of the United Nations Economic and Social Council.

As in 2017, the meeting provided participants with the opportunity for a political dialogue on progress, constraints, and lessons learned in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The topics chosen for this year's discussion sessions – children and youth, sustainable infrastructure investment, and effective institutions – highlight the breadth and interconnectedness of the SDGs, and their universal nature. In a concluding session, OECD members took stock on progress in the implementation of the [OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)](#), adopted at the end of 2016 to support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

Putting Children and Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda

To set the scene, Ms. Hala el Said, Minister of Planning and Administrative Development of Egypt, Ms. María Eugenia Mujica San Martín, Vice Minister for Policy and Social Evaluation of Peru, Mr. Getachew Engida, Deputy Director-General, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Ms. Pernille Borgbo, Global Youth Adviser, of Denmark delivered presentations addressing some of the most pertinent issues faced by children and youth, drawing on their national and institutional experiences.

Participants discussed the disproportionate exposure of children and youth to poverty and malnutrition, and inequalities in accessing health, education, good quality job opportunities and other determinants and factors for well-being with compounded impacts later in life. Participants emphasized the need for a lifecycle approach to policy-making that considers gender inequalities and also acknowledged the need for ensuring a voice and participation to the 1.2 billion strong youth population in economic and political life.

The need to adapt education systems and skills policies to the needs of the future job market was discussed at length – while access to education is increasing, there is a learning crisis where globally more than 617 million children and adolescents fail to achieve at least minimum levels of proficiency in literacy and numeracy, skills are mismatched and formal and good quality jobs are too scarce to come by.

Financing and Delivering Quality Sustainable Infrastructure

The session was opened by high-level representatives Mr. Lütfi Elvan, Minister of Development, Turkey, Mr. Minoru Masujima, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan and Mr. Guido Bichisao, Director of the Institutional Strategy Department, European Investment Bank (EIB), who shared their respective views on the opportunities and challenges related to financing and sustainable infrastructure.

Participants emphasised the importance of infrastructure as a foundation of economic growth and an important link between many of the SDGs, and identified the infrastructure investment gap as a major challenge in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In order to respond to the overall SDG financing gap, participants underscored the need to implement the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), mobilise new and increased sources of finance, through mechanisms such as blended finance, public-private partnerships, as well as ODA as a catalyst for additional financing from other stakeholders, such as the private sector and foundations. The role of effective public procurement and tax mechanisms were also mentioned. The importance of having sound governance structures, effective institutions, and transparency in support of and to regulate these investments and projects was also underscored.

Country representatives drew on a range of national experiences, recalling the range of sectors affected by the need for sustainable infrastructure, including transportation, telecommunications, and providing essential services (health, education, and justice). The challenge of bridging regional differences and reaching all populations in order to leave no one behind was also repeated in this context. Throughout the discussion, the environmental impact and issue of sustainability was also raised repeatedly.

Participants stressed again the importance of data, and the information gap in terms of investments and infrastructure projects. Participants noted the important role of the collection of information in helping to facilitate decision-making of policymakers and investment sources and the need to monitor total official support for sustainable development. In addition, participants emphasised the importance of global governance mechanisms and international cooperation in supporting progress on these issues, notably referring to G7 and G20 initiatives.

Effective Institutions for Delivery of the 2030 Agenda

To set the scene, Ms. Alenka Smerkolj, Minister for Development, Strategic Projects and Cohesion, Slovenia; Prof. Dr. Bambang P.S. Brodjonegoro, Minister of National Development Planning, Indonesia; Ms. Pilar Garrido, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Policy, Costa Rica shared their national experiences.

While many participants stressed the need to focus on implementation of the 2030 Agenda, a range of perspectives was shared on the institutional mechanisms designed for this purpose at the international, national, and sub-national levels. This included different inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, inter-agency committees, and separate overseeing bodies. Although the challenges of organising effectively were repeatedly mentioned, the importance of coordination across policy domains as well as among national

governments, regions and cities and ensuring coherence across interrelated issues was stressed. Organisation and implementation across all levels of government, including the regional and local levels, was also discussed as necessary for successful implementation.

Several countries underlined the need to embed the 2030 Agenda into medium and long-term strategies at the national level and sub-national level. The importance of including budget considerations in the planning process was also highlighted by many participants, especially given limited fiscal space and budgetary pressures in many countries. The continuing challenges of a lack of indicators and data across the SDGs, as well as limited statistical capacities, were raised as barriers to effectively measuring and tracking progress.

Participants highlighted the importance of multi-stakeholder platforms and other public engagement and consultation mechanisms, including non-government actors such as civil society, academia, the private sector, unions and others in the process.

PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OECD ACTION PLAN ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Introduction

1.   This submission presents a summary of recent developments in the work of the OECD since the adoption of its SDG Action Plan in 2016. This note does not pretend to capture the full breadth and depth of the Organisation's contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Rather, the aim is to highlight selected examples of ongoing work and recent results. Information is presented around the four "action areas" set out in the SDG Action Plan:

- Action area 1: Apply an SDG lens to the OECD's strategies and policy tools

- Action area 2: Leverage OECD data to help analyse progress in the implementation of the SDGs

- Action area 3: Upgrade the OECD's support for integrated planning and policy-making at the country level, and provide a space for governments to share experiences in governing for the SDGs

- Action area 4: Reflect on the implications of the SDGs for OECD external relations

Action area 1: Apply an SDG lens to the OECD's strategies and policy tools

2.   Work to **integrate an SDG lens in existing OECD work** is ongoing, and 2017 saw discussions on this in several substantive committees, including on education, economic policy, investment, and development. Members and partners have led the way in helping to give consideration to the SDGs in country reviews or studies. Examples include *Economic Surveys* of Slovenia, Turkey and the Czech Republic and country *Environmental Performance Reviews* that systematically consider SDG related issues, such as fossil fuel subsidies, with Korea, Estonia and Chile as recent examples. Several OECD flagship publications also considered the SDGs in 2017, with dedicated chapters or analysis on the SDGs featuring in *Education at a Glance* and *Government at a Glance,* among others. The 2018 edition of the OECD's *Science, Technology and Innovation Outlook* will include a dedicated chapter on International Co-operation in Science, Technology and Innovation for delivering on the SDGs; and the 2018 *Development Cooperation Report* will seek to unpack "leaving no-one behind".

3.   The 2030 Agenda draws on and reinforces existing normative instruments and frameworks, including the **OECD Gender Recommendations**. The *Report on the Implementation of the OECD Gender Recommendations*, presented at the OECD's annual Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2017 draws attention to the progress – or lack thereof – made by OECD Members and Partners on implementation of these important recommendations, which provide guidance on how to advance gender equality in education, employment, entrepreneurship and public life. A wide range of OECD gender indicators and policy work undertaken to measure progress on the implementation of the Gender Recommendations can

help to reduce gender gaps in policy, financing and data as well as address key challenges in measuring the SDG's gender equality targets (under SDG5). The October 2017 report, *The Pursuit of Gender Equality: an Uphill Battle* reinforces these tools, and links the OECD's multi-disciplinary expertise on gender equality to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, identifying key opportunities and challenges to achieving SDG 5. These include strengthening the evidence base for targets; identifying which policies and practices have shown promising positive impact for achieving gender equality in social institutions; and considering emerging financing trends for gender equality and how to sustain such support.

Why an OECD Action Plan for the SDGs?

The OECD has a long history of engagement with major United Nations (UN) processes on human development and well-being, financing for development, environmental sustainability and climate change. It has contributed to shaping the 2030 Agenda, and is committed to leveraging its capacity and expertise to support the achievement of this vision.

Much of the Organisation's work is relevant to the SDGs, and supports progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The integrated, universal, and indivisible nature of the SDGs means that there are strong synergies with OECD initiatives such as work on data and measurement including multi-dimensional well-being, New Approaches to Economic Challenges, gender equality, Green Growth, and Inclusive Growth. In these areas and others, the Organisation is helping to dismantle silo approaches to thinking about – and responding to – pressing public policy challenges, in keeping with the spirit of the 2030 Agenda.

In December 2016, an OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was finalised and endorsed by the OECD Council. The Action Plan identifies OECD's core strengths and assets in relation to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development endorsed by the UN General Assembly in September 2015, and describes how the OECD will support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda by focusing on four key areas of action:

- ❖ Action area 1: Apply an SDG lens to the OECD's strategies and policy tools.
- ❖ Action area 2: Leverage OECD data to help analyse progress in the implementation of the SDGs.
- ❖ Action area 3: Upgrade the OECD's support for integrated planning and policy-making at the country level, and provide a space for governments to share experiences on governing the SDGs.
- ❖ Action area 4: Reflect on the implications of the SDGs for OECD external relations.

The Action Plan was conceived as a living document, recognising that countries' needs and interests will evolve over time, and that the world will look profoundly different by 2030. The Action Plan also recognises that responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda lies primarily with countries and their governments. In this spirit, the OECD's initiatives with respect to 2030 Agenda will respond to countries' priorities and be undertaken in collaboration with other international organisations and notably the United Nations system, to promote synergies and maximise impact.

4.   Important progress has been made in several areas of work relevant to the financing of the SDGs. In the area of tax, for example, the 150-member Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes (Global Forum), which works to improve international tax cooperation and address the risks of tax compliance posed by non-cooperative jurisdictions, has intensified its technical assistance activities, with a focus on beneficial ownership and implementation of the standard or automatic exchange of information (AEOI). A comprehensive 2-3 year induction programme for new developing country members is now underway, and technical assistance was delivered to more than 60 jurisdictions in 2017. A Plan of Action for Developing Countries' Participation in the AEOI and the Yaoundé Declaration was adopted in November 2017, and the Global Forum's Africa initiative was opened to all 27 African members. Since November 2017, fifteen African countries have signed the Yaoundé Declaration, which calls for further progress on tax transparency to tackle illicit financial flows and facilitate domestic resource mobilisation in Africa.

5.   The joint OECD/United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Tax Inspectors Without Borders Initiative (TIWB) initiative, which supports countries in building tax audit capacity, continues to grow and has resulted in tax revenue increases of over USD 328 million between 2012 and 2017. Also in 2017, the OECD continued to support the Platform for Collaboration on Tax in partnership with the International Monetary Fund, UN, and World Bank Group, and produced additional toolkits to assist developing countries with high priority tax issues related to the Base Erosion Profit Shifting (BEPS) Action Plan. The Platform held its first Global Conference on Taxation and the SDGs on 14-16 February 2018 in New York. The Inclusive Framework on BEPS grew to 113 members.

6.   At the end of 2017, the OECD, together with France and Mexico, launched the Paris Collaborative on Green Budgeting to develop new, innovative tools to assess and drive improvements in the alignment of **national expenditure and revenue** processes with climate and other environmental goals.

7.   Work on the targeting of **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** to countries most in need continued in 2017, with bilateral ODA to the least developing countries (LDCs) and the African increasing (4% and 3% respectively) in real terms. The Development Assistance Committee (DAC) revised its peer review methodology in response to the 2030 Agenda. The DAC also agreed on a set of *Blended Finance Principles for Unlocking Commercial Finance to the SDGs* in October 2017, which will provide donors with a coherent framework for **blending finance** activities.

8.   Further work around **philanthropic flows** continued in 2017 and into 2018, notably with a report *Private Philanthropy for Development* that analyses data collected from 143 private philanthropic foundations.

9.   When it comes to **private investment**, application and dissemination of the updated OECD Policy Framework on Investment continues, with *Investment Policy*

Reviews of Lao PDR, Cambodia and Viet Nam finalised or nearing finalisation, reviews of Croatia and Egypt now underway (both started in Q4 of 2017) and reviews of Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia beginning soon.

10.   In the area of responsible business conduct (RBC), the OECD is currently developing a general due diligence guidance for responsible business conduct, to be finalised in May 2018 for presentation at the annual Ministerial Council Meeting. The OECD continues to support the 48 National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and has launched a new RBC project with 6 Asian countries. The OECD's network of Multinational Enterprises (MNEs) working with the Emerging Markets Network (EMnet) has launched a Working Group on Sustainability to discuss how MNEs can best contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda.

11.   Building on initial analysis of the SDGs and the links to **agricultural policies** in the 2016 *Agricultural Policy Monitoring and Evaluation report*, the OECD released reviews of agricultural policies by country also in 2017. In addition, the *OECD-FAO Agricultural Outlook 2017-2026* looks at the contribution of the agriculture sector to the achievement of primarily SDG 1 on poverty and SDG 2 on hunger, nutrition and sustainable agriculture.

12.   OECD work on **climate change** in 2017 remained highly relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and specifically to the achievement of SDG 13. The report, *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth*, presented to G20 and G7 leaders in May 2017, provides an assessment of how governments can generate inclusive economic growth in the short term, while making progress towards climate goals to secure sustainable long-term growth, simultaneously contributing to SDGs 8 and 13 among other goals. The OECD is building on this with a new study *Financing Infrastructure for Climate Futures*, exploring aligning of finance flows with the objectives of the Paris Agreement

13.   In the area of **biodiversity**, the report *The Political Economy of Biodiversity Policy Reform* published in April 2017 provides good practice insights on how to overcome barriers to effective biodiversity policy reform, covering both terrestrial (SDG 15) and marine ecosystems (SDG 14). The report *Marine Protected Areas: Economics, Management and Effective Policy Mixes* published in June 2017 highlights the progress made towards SDG Target 14.5 and illustrates how marine protected areas can be designed and implemented in a more environmentally and cost-effective manner.

14.   The OECD contributed its experience and evidence on **oceans** and marine economy to the preparation of the UN Ocean Conference in June 2017, responding to a specific request from the President of the 71st session of the UN General Assembly in this regard. This included work on marine protected areas, fiscal instruments for marine conservation and sustainable use, the ocean economy, Small Island Development States (SIDS), climate finance, and fisheries. The report *Support to Fisheries: Levels and Impacts* was produced in advance of the meeting as a contribution to discussions on SDG 14.6 related to fisheries subsidies.

15.   The OECD Council Recommendation on **Water** continues to be an important basis for harnessing the OECD's expertise to support the water-related SDGs. Revision of the indicator framework for the OECD Principles on Water Governance is ongoing. OECD-supported national policy dialogues on water related to SDG6 continue through, most recently, Brazil and the ongoing programme of national policy dialogues in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia.

Action area 2: Leverage OECD data to help analyse progress in the implementation of the SDGs

16.   **Work on measurement** has continued on a number of levels over the course of 2017. The OECD continues to contribute to the UN-led Global Indicator Framework for the SDGs as an observer to the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on **SDG indicators**. The OECD – in partnership with UN agencies – is actively contributing to the development of indicators under specific SDGs. This includes work on development co-operation, gender, water, the environment, and education. For example, the OECD collaborates with UNESCO and its Institute for Statistics around the measurement and calculation of education (SDG 4) indicators, and in March 2017 the three organisations formalised this collaboration, making OECD responsible for the collection of SDG 4 data in respect of Member and Partner countries. The OECD is also contributing to the development of indicators on governance for SDG 16 in collaboration with the UNDP, in particular on 16.6.2 (satisfaction with public services) and 16.7.2 (inclusive and responsive decision-making).

17.   The OECD continues to develop a range of environmental indicators with partner institutions including UN Environment Programme, UN Habitat, UN Statistics Division, Eurostat and the FAO. This includes work on the measurement and calculation of SDG waste indicators (SDG 11; SDG 12); indicators on material productivity and the establishment of related accounts (SDG 8; SDG 12); water resources (SDG 6); fossil fuel subsidies (SDG 12); and policy coherence for sustainable development (SDG 17).

18.   An update of the OECD study *Measuring the Distance to SDG Targets* was published in June 2017, expanding on a July 2016 pilot study with greater target coverage and country participation. In this update, 13 countries participated – an increase from 7 in the 2016 pilot – and 98 out of 169 targets are covered. The study's methodology has also been updated. The study informed several countries' national reviews presented at the HLPF in New York (July 2017), with Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Slovenia, and Sweden drawing explicitly on the OECD framework as part of their published self-assessments. Other countries such as Japan, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Peru, Portugal, and Uruguay explicitly mentioned other sector-specific OECD policy tools and expertise in their national voluntary reviews. In addition, the Study methodology has been adapted to assess the OECD average distance to the SDG targets for specific groups, notably with children and young people.

19.   The OECD is beginning work to develop a conceptual approach for measuring **transboundary effects** (the impacts of one country's actions on other

countries, and contributions made to global public goods) within the 2030 Agenda. This will start from a mapping of transboundary effects, both explicit and implicit in the SDGs and a proposal for selecting and assessing relevant indicators.

20. Building on the OECD Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a triennial international survey which aims to evaluate education systems worldwide by testing the skills and knowledge of 15-year-old students, the PISA for Development pilot is progressing well in all nine participating countries (Bhutan, Cambodia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Senegal, and Zambia). The pilot's outputs will be incorporated in the next edition of PISA in 2021. The OECD is currently discussing participation in PISA 2021 with 30 middle- and low-income countries, in addition to the pilot participants. This work broadens the reach and relevance of OECD support to a wider range of countries, strengthening the evidence base available on education and learning outcomes, essential for the achievement of the SDGs.

21. As a member of the UN Inter-Agency Task Force (IATF) on **Financing for Development**, the OECD contributes to global reports on progress in the implementation of the AAAA. The OECD has been contributing to the development of the 2018 Report, including evidence on the catalytic effect of ODA, blended finance principles, corporate sustainability, and the effects of new technologies. A forthcoming OECD Global Outlook on Financing for Development will be the foundation of the OECD's revitalised, more holistic approach to Financing for Development. Work with partners on the Total Official Support for Sustainable Development (TOSSD) framework is also ongoing, with an international task force established in July 2017. The TOSSD reporting instructions are a work-in-progress and will be tested and refined through country pilots and regional consultations. The task force is expected to conclude its work early 2019, in time for the comprehensive review of the SDG indicator framework by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2020. The aforementioned report *Private Philanthropy for Development* provides, for the first time, data and qualitative evidence on philanthropic flows to developing and emerging countries. Work to introduce data collection on the SDG focus of development co-operation activities through the OECD's the Creditor Reporting System (CRS) is ongoing.

22. Efforts to support developing countries as they improve **statistics on domestic revenue** continued in 2017. The second edition of *Revenue Statistics in Africa,* launched in October 2017, expands its coverage of comparable tax revenue and non-tax revenue statistics from 8 countries in 2016 to 16 countries in 2017. This work draws on a well-established OECD methodology, putting it at the disposal of an ever growing range of countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia, Africa and the Pacific. The Global Revenue Statistics programme now covers more than 80 countries and will reach 90 countries by the end of 2018.

23. The OECD hosted the first joint OECD / UNDESA / ILO Forum on Migration Statistics in January 2018, further strengthening the dissemination of OECD work in this area. The OECD is also supporting UNDESA and ILO in developing a tool for the periodic assessment of international migration policies based on the United Nations Inquiry among Governments on Population and Development in order to

inform SDG target 10.7 (facilitation of safe, orderly, regular and responsible migration through planned and well-managed migration policies).

24.   When it comes to **data on gender**, the OECD continues to partner with the World Bank Group and UN Women to collect data for SDG 5.1.1 (legal frameworks and non-discrimination on the basis of sex). In early April 2018, the UN Interagency Expert Group on the SDGs designated SDG 5.1.1. as a Tier II indicator, meaning that the monitoring methodology, which uses the OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) as a data source, is now a recognised international standard.. A joint data validation process spanning ministries and national statistics offices in 100 countries, will feed into the results presented to the UN Interagency Expert Group, and subsequently to SIGI 2018. The OECD, through the Global Partnership on Effective Development Cooperation, is also partnering with UN Women to track progress on Target 5.c.1, (proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment).

25.   The OECD is currently examining new approaches to **measuring the ocean economy**, including SDG 14 targets and the development of indicators. This will continue to support UN-led work in this area, and follow-up to the major conferences on Oceans (most recently in June 2017).

Action area 3: Upgrade the OECD's support for integrated planning and policy-making at the country level, and provide a space for governments to share experiences in governing for the SDGs

26.   Since the launch of the OECD Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals, demand from Members for OECD **support for national strategies** in line with the 2030 Agenda has continued to grow. The OECD is working with Slovenia (resulting in the formal adoption by the Slovenian government of a national development strategy in 2017) and the Slovak Republic in this area, and has also worked with Poland. Other countries have also expressed interest in drawing on OECD expertise as they develop new strategies or revisit existing ones. This work draws on expertise from around the OECD, including on institutional mechanisms and governance structures, strategic foresight, setting strategic goals and indicators and designing measurement frameworks, and substantive areas such as investment, skills, and environment.

27.   In July 2017, the OECD launched a new research and knowledge-sharing project on the institutional mechanisms that countries have put in place for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to ensure the co-ordination function and the management of trade-offs in the implementation of the SDGs, integrating the SDGs into the budget process, and institutions needed to ensure stakeholder engagement.

28.   The OECD Framework on Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development, first developed in 2016, is evolving as a flexible tool for countries at all levels of development to guide them in assessing policy interactions, policy effects (transboundary and intergenerational) and institutional mechanisms necessary for implementing the SDGs. In 2018, the OECD has applied a policy coherence lens to

OECD work relevant for the theme of the 2018 UN HLPF on *Transformation towards Sustainable and Resilient Societies and associated SDGs* (SDGs 7,11,12,15, and 17), assessing potential inter-linkages and trade-offs, transboundary and intergenerational effects.

29.   The methodology for the OECD Multi-Dimensional Country Reviews (MDCRs) continues to be updated to better support Partners countries as they develop strategies for the SDGs. The MDCR initial assessment phase structure is now centred on the five critical areas of the UN's 2030 Agenda – People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Institutions, and Partnerships. This work also is closely linked with that of the OECD-hosted Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21) on statistical capacity assessments of countries in relation to the SDGs, and related support to countries. Successful pilots have been carried out in Paraguay and Thailand, and included in the MDCR initial assessment.

30.   Complementing targeted support to countries at the national level, a new programme has been launched to support cities and regions by measuring where they stand in relation to national averages and their peers, the so-called Territorial Approach to the SDGs; by engaging in multi-level dialogue with lower and upper levels of government to build consensus on who can do what, at what scale and how; and by sharing international best practices and lessons. The programme will initially support 10-12 pilot cities / regions and will be officially launched at the HLPF 2018 in New York. On-going work on city definitions will also contribute to the measurement of SDGs.

31.   The Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) **country studies** continue to support countries in strengthening their strategies for gender-related aspects of the SDGs. Data collection, analysis and policy guidance and dialogue are key inputs of the SIGI country studies, as well as capacity building for both gender data producers and users.

32.   Work to **make OECD tools and instruments relevant to a broader range of countries** has continued. For example, the OECD has considered how the Methodology for Assessing Procurement Systems (MAPS) – initially developed for use in developing countries – is being upgraded to meet the demands of more countries, including OECD Members, particularly as they pursue SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). The SDG Communicator, a new platform developed in 2017, provides countries with stories, guidance and data on how to engage citizens for the Goals.

Action area 4: Reflect on the implications of the SDGs for OECD external relations

33.   An OECD representative has been posted at UN headquarters on an exploratory basis since mid-2016, with a view to **strengthening relations with the UN family** in the context of the OECD's role as permanent observer to both ECOSOC and the General Assembly, **contributing more actively** to UN processes and debates (e.g. the HLPF follow-up process to the SDGs and the ECOSOC

financing for development segment) and **deepening collaboration** with UN bodies, agencies and programmes (e.g. UNEP, UN WOMEN, UNDP on TIWB). For 2018, the OECD's thematic priorities in collaboration with the UN will include migration, SDG follow-up, development finance, water and climate.

34.   The OECD is continuing collaboration with the ILO, Sweden and other partners on the **Global Deal** for decent work and inclusive growth, contributing in particular to SDG 8 (decent work and inclusive growth), SDG 10 (reducing inequalities) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). The OECD will launch, jointly with ILO, the Global Deal Flagship report in spring 2018.

35.   In September 2017, the OECD, ILO and UN Women launched the **Equal Pay International Coalition** (EPIC), which aims to advance gender equality, and support countries as they achieve the objectives laid out under SDG 5 and 8.5. The OECD will participate by targeting its advocacy, knowledge sharing, capacity building, technical advisory services, data analysis and monitoring. This multi-stakeholder coalition comprises governments, international employers' and workers' organisations, regional organisations, relevant UN agencies, development partners, the private sector, CSOs and academia.

36.   The inaugural meeting of the [OECD Policy Dialogue on Women's Economic Empowerment](#) was held in January 2018, bringing together OECD Members and Partners. This dialogue aims to generate data, evidence and inclusive policy guidance in support of SDG target 5.4 (recognise and value unpaid care and domestic work) as an entry point for promoting women's economic empowerment and well-being in low- and middle-income countries.

37.   In 2017, the OECD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with **UN Women** to facilitate collaboration around data, policy, and research on gender equality. Principal areas of collaboration include: providing data and evidence to track targets under SDG 5.1.1, 5.c.1 among others; the Equal Pay Coalition (EPIC) along with UN Women and the ILO (SDG 8); monitoring ODA and public expenditures on gender equality; and the OECD Policy dialogue on women's economic empowerment (SDG 5.4) with a focus on unpaid and domestic care work.

38.   In January 2018, the OECD accepted an invitation from the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) to become a Partner in the *EQUALS* **initiative** – a *Global Partnership for Gender Equality in the Digital Age* that was jointly launched by the ITU and UN Women in 2016. The initiative is a coalition of stakeholders that have an interest in working to bridge the digital gender divide.

39.   During the May 2017 annual meeting of the World Health Assembly, the OECD joined the **Universal Health Coverage 2030** (UHC2030) partnership. UHC2030 advocates for SDG 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being), and facilitates accountability and knowledge sharing.

40.   The OECD has continued to use its **regional programmes** as platforms to share expertise and policy tools relevant to SDG implementation to a larger range of countries, keeping in mind synergies with the work of UN regional economic

commissions. For example, through the OECD Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Regional Programme, the OECD-LAC Statistics Portal was launched in June 2017 with the aim of improving the accessibility of OECD data on LAC countries across a range of policy areas relevant to the achievement of the SDGs.

41.   The OECD has continued supporting the MENA region through the implementation of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness for Development. This includes work on gender equality, economic resilience, and environmental sustainability.

42.   The Southeast Asia Regional Programme (SEARP) is finalising the ASEAN SME Policy Index 2018 publication, which benchmarks 10 ASEAN Member States across 25 areas relevant for SDGs, especially to promoting innovation, creativity and decent work for all (SDG 8), and reducing inequality within and among countries (SDG 10). The Strengthening Women's Entrepreneurship in ASEAN (2017) report provides policy advice on closing gaps in education, labour market outcomes and supporting women's entrepreneurship (SDG 5.4).

43.   The GREEN Action Task Force, the platform for supporting the greening of the economies of Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia, held its annual meeting in October 2017. This Task force continues to be an important platform to help countries in the region deliver on the 2030 Agenda, in co-operation with UNECE, UN Environment and UNIDO.

44.   Work with Key Partners (Brazil, China, India, Indonesia and South Africa) on SDG implementation is also ongoing. In Indonesia, for example, the OECD is currently developing a Green Growth Policy Review to assess the country's policy framework for green growth and its integration into economic policies and planning processes. Indonesia is also included in the *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth* report mentioned above. The on-going SME Policy Review for Indonesia will provide a set of recommendations for promoting innovation, creativity and decent work for all (SDG 8).

45.   **OECD fora** have continued to provide valuable spaces for dialogue and partnerships between OECD Members, non-Members and other stakeholders contributing to SDG 17. This includes, for example, the Global Forum on Development, which in 2018 focused on Inclusive Agendas for Women and Youth; and the Green Growth Forum, on sustainable development and on "Greening the Oceans Economy" in 2017. The OECD Development Centre's Network of Foundations Working for Development (netFWD) launched in 2017 three thematic working groups to foster peer-learning on health (SDG 3), education (SDG4) and gender (SDG5). The launch of the OECD Centre on Philanthropy in 2018 will provide an ongoing data source and an evidence base on successful philanthropic approaches in support of the 2030 Agenda.

46.   The OECD has continued to harness **theme-specific fora** among OECD and partner countries to support efforts towards relevant goals. For example, under the OECD Initiative for Policy Dialogue on Global Value Chains, Production Transformation and Development (PD-GVCs), Production Transformation Policy

Reviews (PTPRs) have been developed with contributions from UN partner agencies, and their analysis has been included in the UN Global Sustainable Development Report. The reviews support countries in defining strategies and partnerships for achieving the SDGs by assessing countries' readiness and potential for production transformation and upgrading in GVCs. While the reports support mostly the least-developed countries (LDCs), they are increasingly demanded and are currently implemented also in middle- and upper-middle-income countries including Chile and Colombia, as well as in the city of Shenzhen, People's Republic of China.

47.   The OECD Centre on Green Finance and Investment continues to be an important platform to support the rapid scaling-up of green investment and financing flows required to achieve the Paris Agreement goals and the environmental objectives in the SDGs, including SDG 7 (energy), SDG 9 (infrastructure and industrialisation), and SDG13 (climate action), as well as the AAAA.

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