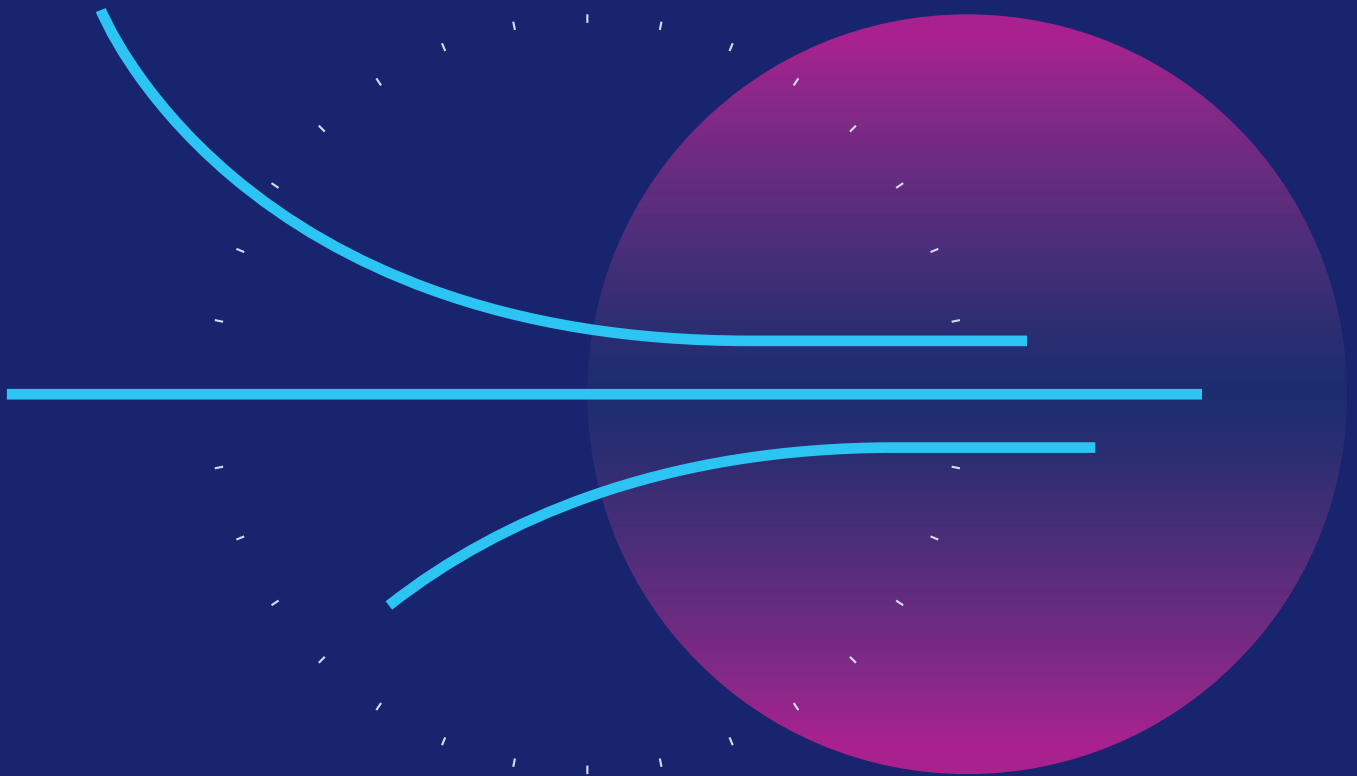


Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level

Paris, 3-4 June 2025



STATEMENT OF THE CHAIR OF THE 2025 MCM

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“Leading the way towards resilient, inclusive, and sustainable prosperity through rules-based trade, investment and innovation”

**2025 Ministerial Council Meeting
Statement of the Chair of the 2025 MCM**

Under the Chairmanship of Costa Rica and Vice Chairmanship of Australia, Canada, and Lithuania

This document is issued under the sole responsibility of Costa Rica as Chair of the Ministerial Council Meeting.

1. For over six decades, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) has played a crucial role in advancing sound and evidence-based policies that promote sustainable development, economic prosperity and social well-being around the world and contribute to addressing global challenges. At a time of shifting geopolitics, rapid technological progress, evolving trade dynamics, emerging opportunities, social challenges and the triple planetary crisis, namely, climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, the OECD’s mission, values and global role are more relevant than ever, highlighting the importance of continuing to promote effective multilateralism.
2. In recognition of the enduring commitment to the OECD’s founding goals and shared values defined in the *Convention on the OECD* and our *60th Anniversary Vision Statement*, these values serve as a guiding compass to address global challenges effectively, combining national action and international cooperation to promote better policies for better lives and more inclusive societies, and to create the global public goods needed to ensure our economies are resilient, inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous over the long term.
3. The OECD’s global leadership and unique value in providing cutting-edge data, rigorous evidence-based analysis, and tailored policy work continues offering countries’ policymakers with actionable tools as they seek to better navigate economic uncertainty and pursue structural reforms. These contributions have been pursued in key policy areas such as, competitiveness, productivity, demographic changes, social cohesion, inclusion, high quality education, the green and digital transition and gender equality, among others. To this end, the outcomes of the recent ministerial meetings at committee-level¹ have contributed to valuable policy development efforts and guidance.
4. To build resilient economies, in a highly uncertain global context, the OECD can play a role in helping countries anticipate and prepare for future shocks and enhance economic growth and security. Furthermore, building economic resilience requires de-risking through diversification and reduction of critical dependencies and the need to actively engage with partners and the private sector to make co-ordinated efforts to strengthen supply chains, including critical minerals, based on the *Principles on Resilient and Reliable Supply Chains* and responsible business conduct, and upgrade in global value chains through sophistication and diversification. The *OECD Emerging Markets Forum*, held in Istanbul in April 2025, featured discussions under the theme *Making Connectivity Work for Resilient Global Value Chains*. Strengthening productivity and resilience amid fiscal pressures can be achieved through structural reforms and targeted, long-term strategies, to spur innovation that build on ongoing investment efforts. The OECD has been providing valuable work by monitoring trade flows, assessing the impact of economic trade fragmentation, building our evidence-based awareness on supply chain resilience—including through the *Supply Chain Resilience Review*—, enhancing the availability and comparability of Foreign Direct Investment statistics worldwide, and facilitating the design of better investment policies to support efforts to navigate shocks and build resilient, inclusive, and sustainable economies. The World Trade Organisation

¹ Ministerial meetings on Consumer Policy (Paris, 8-9 October 2024), Social Policy (Paris, 13-14 February 2025) and Regional Development Policy (Warsaw, 19-20 May 2025).

(WTO) should remain at the core of the rules-based multilateral trading system and continue upholding its principles. The OECD should continue to advocate for a level playing field among countries, help countries address non-market policies and practices, such as market-distorting subsidies, non-market practices of state-owned enterprises, and forced technology transfer, while focusing on market-driven growth and encouraging that trade benefits are widely spread to all segments of society, including by supporting women's economic empowerment, elderly and disabled people, and small and medium enterprises to better integrate into open markets. WTO faces challenges and requires meaningful reform aiming to strengthen and improve all its functions, so that it can effectively respond to today's key global trade challenges. To this end, Members are called to make the 14th WTO Ministerial Conference in Cameroon in 2026 a success, and to incorporate the *Investment Facilitation for Development Agreement* and the *Agreement on Electronic Commerce* into the WTO legal framework.

5. The OECD has proven to be a trusted platform for open, fact-based, constructive, and impactful multistakeholder policy dialogue, including among Members, accession candidate countries, key partners, partner countries, global and regional fora, social partners and other relevant actors. The value of the Organisation also lies in shared commitments and a consensus-based approach. The OECD strengthens, within its mandate, the rules-based international system by developing high-quality evidence-based standards, facilitating voluntary knowledge exchange, and cultivating mutual trust. The OECD therefore promotes international co-operation and development, and equips nations to develop forward-looking solutions rooted in shared values that serve to promote the well-being for all. In light of this, through the April 2025 statement by the *OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS)* the continued value of the Inclusive Framework was recognised as a platform for collaboration on tax and the opportunity to explore new areas of common interest using a phased and evidence-based approach.
6. The OECD continues to provide important support to its members that are Parties to the *Paris Agreement* in implementing ambitious climate actions aligned with its objectives and the global calls of the Global Stocktake, including efforts to keep the 1.5°C goal within reach, in reviewing environmentally beneficial and harmful support measures across sectors, offering evidence-based analysis to guide reform and addressing the triple planetary crisis. All Parties are encouraged to contribute to global efforts in line with the Global Stocktake decision, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science. The Organisation also supports Members that are Parties to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity to take urgent action in support of the swift, full, and effective implementation on the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030. The *Agreement on Climate Change, Trade and Sustainability (ACCTS)*, as an open, innovative, and forward-looking initiative includes binding disciplines to eliminate tariffs and improve market access for environmental goods and services, foster cooperation on eco-labelling schemes, and reduce fossil fuel subsidies.
7. Timely progress toward the ratification and entry into force of the *Agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the Conservation and Sustainable Use of Marine Biological Diversity of Areas beyond National Jurisdiction* is essential, along with the conclusion of negotiations on an international instrument to address plastic pollution through a comprehensive, life-cycle approach. Looking ahead, the 2025 United Nations Ocean Conference in Nice, co-hosted by Costa Rica and France, will highlight the vital role of a healthy oceans, seas, and marine resources for advancing long-term environmental, economic and social development—including areas such as global food security, energy, employment, and biodiversity. In this context, WTO disciplines on fisheries subsidies, and the *OECD Recommendation on Eliminating Government Support to Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing* are acknowledged as contributions to the upcoming conference.
8. The OECD continues to make significant progress in mainstreaming gender equality and inclusion across its work, guided by an intersectional approach and supported by rigorous analysis and gender-disaggregated

data. This work highlights the importance of building inclusive economies where everyone can fully benefit from gender equality initiatives, in alignment with the *OECD's Contribution to Promoting Gender Equality*. In this context, the 2024 OECD Forum on Gender Equality was noted as a significant milestone.

9. The OECD develops guidance for a human-centred and rights-based digital and technological transformation that benefits all, including through the work of the Global Forum on Technology. Recognising the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI), the *OECD AI Principles* and the *Hiroshima AI Process* are key in developing and using AI in a trustworthy, human-centred, and inclusive manner, ensuring safety, transparency, and accountability in its deployment across societies. It is important to advance the practical implementation of the *OECD AI Principles*, particularly in the context of generative AI. The integration and expansion of the *Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)* as a platform for shared learning provides a distinctive and valuable contribution to the international AI landscape, and to global digital cooperation. The progress in developing the AI Implementation Toolkit plays a key role in supporting the implementation of the *OECD AI Principles*. To unlock the potential of AI, depends on measures that strengthen *Data Free Flow with Trust*, along with support for its organisational structure.
10. The strengthened coordination and co-operation between the United Nations (UN) and the OECD, within their respective mandates and guided by Member State priorities, contributes to effectively addressing shared global challenges through evidence-based policies and practical solutions. By leveraging strategic enlargement, with ongoing² and potential accession processes, global relations tools³, collaboration with key partners, and active participation in international organisations such as the UN and WTO, as well as fora like APEC, ASEAN, the G7, and the G20, the OECD can reinforce its global relevance. The OECD will continue to deepen its engagement across a diverse set of regions, including Africa, Eurasia, Indo-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia and Southeast Europe.
11. The ongoing accession processes with Argentina, Brazil and Peru further represent a qualitative and transformational leap, with profound potential incidence on both the Latin America and the Caribbean Region and the OECD. The approval of the *Strategic Framework for Latin America and the Caribbean* is a timely opportunity to renew and strengthen the partnership of the OECD with the region. This Framework, and its upcoming concrete implementation plan, offer a renewed basis for deepening our engagement and supporting shared priorities through dialogue, knowledge exchange, and policy co-operation.
12. In light of Russia's continued war of aggression against Ukraine and the unwavering support for Ukraine in defending its territorial integrity and its freedom, sovereignty and independence, Ukraine's active engagement with the OECD has been welcomed, and the Organisation will continue supporting its recovery, reconstruction and policy reform efforts.
13. Recognising the OECD's longstanding commitment to development and its core mandate, the current Development Strategy has served as a valuable framework for guiding the Organisation's global efforts and aligning with relevant international development engagements. The *Progress Report on the OECD Strategy on Development* provides an update on the elaboration of the new whole-of-OECD Strategy on Development and the related technical work underway, including the development of a new screening tool for policy coherence and efforts to reinforce and better coordinate OECD support for domestic resource mobilisation. It also acknowledges the consultation and follow-up process carried out to date. The OECD should continue working towards delivering a new whole-of-OECD *Strategy on Development*. While fully respecting the

² Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Indonesia, Peru, Romania, and Thailand.

³ The OECD's Global Relations tools are the instruments and mechanisms the Organisation uses to engage with non-Member economies and promote its global outreach. These tools help broaden the OECD's influence, support policy reform, and foster international cooperation. These global relations tools include i) Country Programmes and Regional Programmes (covering Eurasia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Middle East and North Africa, Southeast Asia, and Southeast Europe); ii) Partnerships (Africa through evolving engagement); iii) participation in OECD Committees; iv) adherence to OECD Instruments; v) Development Centre; vi) Global Forums and Conferences; vii) and multilateral cooperation.

different national circumstances, priorities, and policy choices of each country, the OECD's work leverages its knowledge, data, tools, instruments, and good practices to support actions aimed to advancing the *2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals*. The OECD is meaningfully contributing to the upcoming Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development in Seville, Spain, and to the Seville Platform for Action, and follow-up on its commitments.

14. Finland has been designated as the upcoming Chair of the MCM 2026.

This document, as well as any data and map included herein, are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

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