Foreword

In an integrated global economy, a number of global risks and challenges – from climate change to financial crises to increasing inequality – require coordinated international responses. While risks can be global in that they may affect many countries across multiple continents, the impact in reality may be felt more or less severely in specific places. This has implications on the likelihood, form and effectiveness of international co-operation. For effective international co-operation and action, it is therefore vital to understand the risks and challenges facing us as well as how they are perceived by different countries and actors within the global system.

The OECD Development Centre consistently has sought to scout out emerging trends and issues that require policy responses. Its work on shifting wealth – tracking the growing weight of emerging economies in the global economy – was one such issue that came to define its narrative on development over the last years. The Centre also plays a unique role within the OECD by bridging different policy communities in advanced, emerging and developing economies, thanks to its membership that brings together OECD countries with countries at different stages of development.

This anthology continues in this spirit and contributes to two of the Centre's core objectives: to identify and frame issues that are critical to the development dialogue and to mobilise development knowledge to influence OECD thinking. It is part of the Centre's 2015-16 programme of work to better understand global phenomena and how they impact development to support countries in formulating better development strategies and in enhancing international co-operation to secure global public goods and fight global public "bads".

Specifically, the anthology seeks to anticipate the major global risks and challenges looking forward to the next 15 years. It gathers ideas for solutions and policy responses to mitigate the risks and address the challenges. It brings together contributions from academics, development practitioners and thought leaders from emerging and developing economies to help inform the OECD and the wider development community's thinking. The articles in this anthology represent the authors' views and perspectives. As such, it is the anthology's intention to provide a basis for dialogue and exchange on the national and collective responses that are needed to deal with the global risks and challenges that developing countries and we all face.

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