FOREWORD

Improving development perspectives lies at the very heart of the OECD's founding mission to contribute to economic growth and development worldwide. This report examines the way in which wider policy tools can be used to support our common development objectives, also referred to as "Policy Coherence for Development".

We start from two premises. First, that policies ranging from trade and investment to tax and fiscal transparency, corporate governance, climate change, resource security, and social policy have a profound impact on the prospects for achieving sustainable development objectives in a national and global context. Second, that whilst these policies require action by national governments and regional organisations in both developed and developing countries, in today's interconnected world they also require collective action by the entire international community.

The report covers 18 development policy topics, together spanning virtually and horizontally the whole of the OECD's work. Its structure is divided into four broad categories: sustainable economic growth, economic governance, the environment and natural resource security and society. Together these reflect the OECD's mission to help build a 'stronger, cleaner and fairer' global economy.

The increased need for a horizontal approach to development was underlined by the G20 Seoul Summit in November 2010. Leaders endorsed the G20 Seoul Development Consensus and its Multi-Year Action Plan that complement the traditional Official Development Assistance-focused development agenda. We have contributed extensively to the definition of the G20 development concepts, based on a comprehensive approach to development which is focused on economic growth, knowledge sharing and policy dialogue. The OECD is tasked in six of the nine pillars of the G20 Multi-Year Action Plan on Development: human resources development; domestic resource mobilisation; food security; aid for trade; private investment and job creation; and knowledge sharing. The mandates received from G20 Leaders offer an opportunity to sharpen our focus on how best to support member and partner countries in their policies to promote development.

Development challenges will continue to drive the OECD's work as we celebrate our 50th anniversary, and even more importantly as we look to the future. This will involve not only close collaboration with other international organisations, but also closer co-ordination across the different areas of work of the OECD and its committees. We will continue to build on the OECD's multi-disciplinary expertise and link various policy issues to the development agenda. For instance, some of the next steps of the OECD's horizontal work on green growth will look at supporting greener growth paths and associated opportunities in countries at all levels of development. This cross-cutting approach, building on the collective expertise of the whole Organisation, lies at the core of the new framework for an OECD Strategy on Development.

This wider development agenda does not mean that aid has become less important. Many developing countries will continue to need significant resource transfers from richer countries to accelerate progress towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). It is essential that advanced economies should deliver on their commitments on aid volume and that they take further action to improve their performance at the next High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in South Korea in 2011. The Busan conference is also an opportunity to explore the transition from aid effectiveness to the broader notion of development effectiveness.

Last but not least, reforming the way in which our institutions operate will be vital as we improve the development impact of our policies by better including developing countries in our work. The OECD will continue to deepen its co-operation with emerging economies and developing partner countries. Building on our founding mission, development will continue to be a strategic priority for us; we will therefore define new milestones at the 50th Anniversary Ministerial meeting in May 2011. The "D" in OECD stands for development and this "D" is the imperative for us to offer our support and advice wherever it can contribute to reducing poverty and to "better policies for better lives".

Angel Gurría
OECD Secretary-General

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'Better Policies for Development' is the product of a collaborative effort by many staff across the Organisation. David Batt developed the concept and design of the report, collaborated with the relevant OECD Directorates and the International Energy Agency on the drafting of the individual topics, and managed its production.

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