

# Meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial Level

Paris, 7-8 June 2023



## 2023 MINISTERIAL COUNCIL STATEMENT

# **2023 Ministerial Council Statement**

## SECURING A RESILIENT FUTURE: SHARED VALUES AND GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

On the occasion of the 2023 OECD Ministerial Council Meeting, we\* have assembled under the leadership of the United Kingdom as MCM Chair, and with Costa Rica and New Zealand as Vice Chairs, on the theme of “Securing a Resilient Future: Shared Values and Global Partnerships”.

1. **Our like-minded community remains committed to: the shared values of individual liberty, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, gender equality, environmental sustainability and tackling inequalities, as set out in our 2021 Vision Statement; as well as diversity and inclusion.** We commit to strengthening the rules-based international order to restore sustainable and inclusive growth; strengthening our economic resilience and security; deterring and countering economic coercion; and reacting to other threats to international stability, including energy and food security. We appreciate the G7 Leaders’ Statement on Economic Resilience and Economic Security made on 20 May. While global growth has been more resilient than expected in recent months, the outlook remains relatively weak, and downside risks have increased. Russia’s war against Ukraine, high inflation, and a rapid tightening of monetary policy necessary for addressing inflation are weighing on growth prospects. We remain committed to policies that deliver growth, maintain sustainable public finances, support price stability and promote social inclusion.
2. **We condemn Russia’s aggression against Ukraine in the strongest possible terms. Russia’s unjustifiable and unprovoked war against Ukraine is a clear violation of international law and a serious threat to the rules-based international order.** Russia’s war has caused human suffering for the people of Ukraine. It has disrupted global supply chains, undermined economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, and diminished energy and food security for millions across the globe. We reaffirm our commitment to support the people and democratically elected government of Ukraine, and their chosen path towards our shared OECD standards and values. We welcome the launch of an OECD Ukraine Country Programme, for Ukraine’s recovery and reconstruction, and the establishment of an OECD-Ukraine Liaison Office in Kyiv, as part of an initial accession dialogue. We continue to work with the Ukrainian authorities, and in coordination with other international actors through the Multi Agency Donor Coordination Platform, and look forward to a successful outcome from the Ukraine Recovery Conference in London on 21-22 June.
3. **We reaffirm the importance of multilateralism and standing united in addressing global challenges, and in reaching out beyond our current membership to enhance and develop global partnerships.** We welcome progress made in the accession process for Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru and Romania. We are continuing our collaboration with Key Partners and others, including through Regional and Country Programmes as well as their adherence to OECD standards. We welcome the adoption of a new OECD Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific, building on the strong cooperation with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and recognising the region’s strategic priority and its importance for global growth, and critical supply chains, as well as in global challenges such as climate change and the digital transition, with a view to identifying countries for potential membership. We will build on our commitment to African nations, strengthening the OECD’s engagement with partners on areas of mutual interest and deepening our joint efforts to pursue sustainable

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\* Ministers and representatives of Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union.

development and prosperity. We welcome the progress made on the OECD-Africa Partnership and we continue working towards its implementation.

4. **We value the OECD's role in promoting free and fair trade, investment, and supply chain resilience, as set out in the new OECD trade strategy; and facilitating international cooperation to counter attempts to undermine open, market-based economic systems.** We support the rules-based multilateral trading system with the WTO at its centre, and will work together towards ambitious reform of the WTO, including by conducting discussions with the view to having a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system accessible to all Members by 2024 and by reinforcing deliberation to respond to global trade policy challenges. We are committed to achieving a successful Thirteenth WTO Ministerial Conference. We commit to building a global level playing field; building sustainable and diversified global supply chains that are responsive to the needs of people everywhere; addressing market distorting practices; and preserving the benefits of open markets and a rules-based international trading system. We value the contribution of small and medium-sized enterprises to our economies, and endeavour to ensure trade and investment policies promote inclusiveness and harness the potential of women to drive economic growth. We will continue to monitor trade interdependencies to maintain competitive markets for critical supply chains, in particular those required for the green transition, through work led by the Trade Committee.
5. **We welcome all new and updated OECD standards adopted at this Ministerial Council Meeting and value the central role played by the OECD in shaping global standards in partnership with relevant stakeholders.** The OECD sets leading global standards for responsible business conduct (RBC), and we welcome the Declaration on Promoting and Enabling RBC in the Global Economy and the Recommendation on the Role of Government in Promoting RBC. We welcome the adoption of the updated OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on RBC as the recommended international standard on RBC, and call on the OECD to further assist Adherents by facilitating co-operation, including ensuring respect for human rights and international labour standards, and furthering better outcomes for at-risk groups. We also adopt the revised G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance, contributing to the resilience and sustainability of our broader economies.
6. **We will continue to work together to reform the international tax system through a timely and effective implementation of the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework's two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation and globalisation of the economy.** Following the 2022 G20/OECD Roadmap on Developing Countries and International Taxation, we are committed to increasing capacity building efforts to support developing countries implement the two-pillar solution and existing international tax rules swiftly. We call on the OECD to take forward work with a view to exploring how to significantly increase developing country access and use of Country-by-Country Reporting over the next three years, consistently with 2015 BEPS Action 13 Report objectives and rules. We also welcome the new Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework as an international standard and the revised Common Reporting Standard. We call on the OECD to explore areas of further improvement to tax transparency, working with interested jurisdictions and other relevant stakeholders.
7. **The OECD has a vital role to play in the delivery of a whole-of-economy approach to net zero emissions.** The Net Zero+ report on climate and economic resilience in a changing world underlines the OECD's multidisciplinary approach and its role in assisting governments in just transitions to net zero. Urgent, transformative action is required to keep a limit of 1.5C global average temperature rise within reach and protect those most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The recent IPCC Synthesis Report states that feasible, effective, and low-cost options for mitigation and adaptation are already available. We reiterate our call on the OECD to continue to examine environmentally harmful support across all sectors, and to provide

evidence-based analysis to support reform. We welcome the launch of the Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA) and encourage broad membership, including by large emitters. We recognise the role of the IEA in shaping a secure and sustainable energy future for all.

8. **We reaffirm our commitment to strengthening the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including through the delivery of the Glasgow Climate Pact and the Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan, and look forward to a successful and ambitious outcome from COP28.** We call on all UNFCCC Parties to commit to collectively work to peak global emissions as soon as possible, by 2025 at the latest. We urge all countries – especially major emitters – whose 2030 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) targets are not yet aligned with a 1.5C pathway to increase the ambition of these 2030 targets as soon as possible and well before COP28. We call upon all Parties to accelerate the development, deployment and dissemination of technologies, and the adoption of policies, to transition towards low-emission energy systems, including by rapidly scaling up the deployment of clean power generation and energy efficiency measures, including accelerating efforts towards the phasedown of unabated coal power and phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and most vulnerable in line with national circumstances.
9. **We look forward to ambitious outcomes from the first Global Stocktake, committing to further action, including in this critical decade.** We welcome the Declaration on Transformative Solutions for Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, including Members' commitments to reduce emissions from agriculture and food systems, to maintain food security now and in the future; and to increase carbon sequestration. We note the role for carbon removal, in hard to abate sectors and with necessary safeguards.
10. **We welcome the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and support its full and effective implementation.** We recognise the importance of sustainable and resilient ocean and water management. Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members reiterate their commitment to delivering the OECD DAC Declaration on a new approach to align development cooperation with the goals of the Paris Agreement. DAC members will work to develop a common understanding of 'nature positive' Official Development Assistance (ODA) and alignment with the GBF.
11. **We are committed to reinvigorating our efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including ending poverty, at this critical halfway point.** We will work to ensure that the UNGA SDG Summit in September delivers for all, including the poorest and most vulnerable. We reaffirm the importance of greening finance flows and encourage progress on sustainable development, climate, biodiversity and nature action, including through the ongoing efforts to evolve the International Financial Institutions to be more efficient and effective in addressing global challenges. We reaffirm existing UNFCCC climate finance efforts, including commitment to the collective developed country goal of mobilising USD 100 billion annually through to 2025 in the context of meaningful mitigation action and transparency on implementation. We recall the Glasgow Climate Pact's call to double the collective provision of adaptation finance from 2019 levels by 2025 in the context of achieving a balance between mitigation and adaptation in the provision of scaled-up financial resources, recalling Article 9, paragraph 4 of the Paris Agreement. To achieve these goals, we recognise the need to mobilise finance from all sources and to align public and private financial flows including on the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal GBF and the 2030 Agenda.
12. **We are committed to promoting quality, reliable, sustainable, and resilient infrastructure investment, including through the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment and the G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure and**

**Investment.** We acknowledge the need to promote strategic frameworks, such as the Global Gateway, and the importance of promoting innovative approaches to attracting private infrastructure investment, such as the Blue Dot Network and FAST-Infra certification schemes, and the CIF Capital Market Mechanism.

13. **We value the OECD’s continued leadership role in promoting data free flow with trust and cross-border data flows; and providing expert analysis and policy guidance on the digital economy,** including the Declaration on a Trusted, Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Future and the Declaration on Government Access to Personal Data Held by Private Sector Entities. We are committed to improving the digital resilience and security of our economies, and we adopt the Recommendation on the Governance of Digital Identity, reaffirming the need for trusted and reliable digital identity solutions rooted in democratic values. We reaffirm the 2019 Recommendation on Artificial Intelligence (AI), and call on the OECD to support implementation globally to help ensure that AI, including generative AI, continues to power innovation, and is designed and used responsibly, in a way that respects human rights and democratic values. We recognise the importance of semiconductors as a foundational technology, underpinning the global economy and enabling critical sectors, and are committed to increasing efforts to support semiconductor supply chain resilience.
14. **Technology is a major driver of growth, prosperity, and societal change. In response to accelerating technological development, increasing reliance on technology, and geopolitical instability, we are committed to shaping human-centric and rights-oriented technology that reinforces the core values of the OECD.** We welcome the creation of the Global Forum on Technology as a platform for inclusive dialogue to ensure technologies are designed, developed, and deployed in an ethical, sustainable, and inclusive way. We welcome its initial choice as priority technologies of immersive technologies, synthetic biology, and quantum technologies. We endeavour to realise and address the current and emerging opportunities and challenges presented by the twin green and digital transitions. We remain committed to building equitable education and skills systems and to supporting more women and girls including in accessing the STEM sector. We recognise that preventing and responding to technology-facilitated gender-based violence is critical to allow women to fully participate and succeed in the digital economy.
15. **We encourage the OECD to continue to mainstream gender equality and inclusivity at the core of its analysis and to apply an intersectional approach to policy, data collection, and analysis disaggregated by sex, age, disability and region.** We welcome the OECD’s Contribution to Promoting Gender Equality, the proposed Flagship Report on Gender Equality, the OECD Dashboard on Gender Gaps, and the new Gender Data Initiative. We look forward to the development of gender policy reviews and the establishment of a Gender Equality Forum to embed best practice.
16. We strongly value the OECD Secretariat’s ongoing work and commitment to developing and supporting the effective implementation of international standards and providing best practice and evidence-based policy advice. We appreciate the positive and constructive collaboration with Business at OECD (BIAC), the Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC), Youthwise, and other stakeholders. We support the Secretary-General’s efforts to increase the relevance of the OECD globally through working with other groupings. We value his commitment to organisational reform, taking due consideration of the recommendations from the forthcoming Independent External Evaluation. We also support his endeavour to maintain, in line with the Staff Regulations, a gender-balanced, nationally diverse, and transparent organisation that is responsive and accountable to its Members. We look to the OECD for continued support to deliver better policies for better lives and help us all secure resilient futures.

## **Annex to the 2023 MCM Statement**

The Ministerial Council Meeting:

- adopted the present Ministerial Council Statement of the Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level 2023, and:

### *regarding OECD Legal Instruments:*

- welcomed the Annual Update on OECD Standard-Setting;
- welcomed the updated OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct;
- adopted the Recommendations of the Council on Environmental Compliance Assurance; on Fighting Bid Rigging in Public Procurement; on Improving the Gender Balance in the Nuclear Sector; on Intellectual Property Rights and Competition; on Principles of Corporate Governance; on Regional Development Policy; on SME Financing; on the Governance of Digital Identity; on the International Standards for Automatic Exchange of Information in Tax Matters; as well as the Decision-Recommendation of the Council on Chemical Accident Prevention, Preparedness and Response and the Decision of the Council on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct;

### *regarding Accession and Global Partnerships:*

- welcomed the adoption of a new OECD Strategic Framework for the Indo-Pacific;
- welcomed the Accession Progress Update for Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru and Romania;
- welcomed the Secretary-General's report to Ministers on OECD Global Relations;
- welcomed the launch of the Ukraine Country Programme;
- welcomed the progress made on the OECD-Africa Partnership;
- welcomed the OECD's engagement in and support for international processes such as G7, G20, APEC, ASEAN, Pacific Alliance, and the United Nations;

### *regarding Flagship Work:*

- welcomed the progress made with the inaugural meeting and growing membership of the Inclusive Forum on Carbon Mitigation Approaches (IFCMA) and encouraged broad membership, including large emitters;
- welcomed the creation of the Global Forum on Technology;
- welcomed the OECD's Contribution to Promoting Gender Equality, the proposed Flagship Report on Gender Equality, the OECD Dashboard on Gender Gaps, and the new Gender Data Initiative , and looked forward to the development of gender policy reviews and the establishment of a Gender Equality Forum to embed best practice;
- welcomed the approval of the OECD's contribution to promoting open markets and a rules-based international trading system in good working order;
- welcomed the OECD Global Forum on Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy and looked forward to further building on it, including through its Mis and Dis-Information Resource Hub;

### *regarding Publications:*

- noted the OECD Economic Outlook;
- noted the Brick by Brick II – Housing Synthesis Report;
- noted the report Net Zero+: Climate and Economic Resilience in a Changing World;

- noted the “Build, Reinforce and Protect: Democratic Resilience in an Age of Multiple Crises”: 2023 Government at a Glance Focus Chapter;
- noted the Policy Guidance on Mitigating the Risks of Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) in Oil Commodity Trading;
- noted the Dashboard of Equity Indicators in and through Education;
- noted the report Joining Forces for Gender Equality - What is Holding us Back?;
- noted the OECD Global Plastics Outlook - Policy Scenarios to 2060;
- noted the OECD Review of Fisheries 2022;
- noted the Policy Paper: Assessing biodiversity-related financial risks: Navigating the landscape of existing approaches.

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**The Council meeting at Ministerial level was informed by the outcomes of the following meetings organised under its oversight:**

- meeting of the Committee for Agriculture at Ministerial level on “Building Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems in a Changing Environment: Shared Challenges, Transformative Solutions” (3-4 November 2022, OECD, Paris);
- meeting of the Public Governance Committee at Ministerial level on “Building Trust and Reinforcing Democracy” (18 November 2022, Luxembourg);
- meeting of the Education Policy Committee at Ministerial level on “Re-building an Inclusive and Equitable Society through Education” (7-8 December 2022, OECD, Paris);
- meeting of the Committee on Digital Economy Policy at Ministerial level on “Driving Long-term Recovery and Economic Growth by building a Trusted, Sustainable, And Inclusive Digital Future” (14-15 December 2022, Gran Canaria, Spain);
- meeting on Responsible Business Conduct at Ministerial level on “Promoting and Enabling Responsible Business Conduct in the Global Economy” (14-15 February 2023, OECD, Paris).

**Furthermore, the Council meeting at Ministerial level looks forward to the outcomes of the following meetings organised under its oversight:**

- meeting of the Committee on SMEs and Entrepreneurship at Ministerial level on “Managing Shocks and Transitions – Future-Proofing SME and Entrepreneurship Policies” (27-28 June 2023, OECD, Paris);
- meeting of the Health Committee at Ministerial level on “Better policies for more resilient health systems” (23 January 2024, OECD, Paris);
- meeting of the Committee for Scientific and Technological Policy at Ministerial level on “S&T 2025: Enabling sustainability transitions through science, technology and innovation” (24-26 April 2024, venue TBC).



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