



Declaration on Enhancing Productivity for Inclusive Growth

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Background Information

The Declaration on Enhancing Productivity for Inclusive Growth was adopted on 2 June 2016 on the occasion of the OECD Council Meeting at Ministerial Level where ministers discussed the twin challenges of slow productivity growth and rising inequality. Ministers notably noted that productivity is a multidimensional concept that requires better measurement tools and data collection and analysis. They also agreed that a broader, more inclusive approach to productivity growth — grounded in investments in education, skills, health, and quality jobs for individuals, and policies that position lagging regions and firms to realise their productive potential, as well as greater focus on facilitating market access and promoting competition, especially in new technology sectors — could be the key to strengthening productivity growth for the benefit of all segments of society. The Declaration aims to identify ways for Adherents to deepen, through the OECD, their understanding of the productivity challenge and its possible links to inequality trends to explore policy solution for enhancing productivity while fostering inclusive growth.

WE, MINISTERS AND REPRESENTATIVES OF Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, 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, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States:

CONSIDERING that:

1. In a context of weak global growth, many governments face the challenges of slow productivity growth and increased income inequality and inequalities of opportunities.
2. Some of the causes of slow productivity growth may also be driving inequalities.
3. We need to identify ways to build on technological advances and innovation in order to foster productivity growth in all sectors of the economy, as well as ensuring that this translates into broadly shared gains in well-being.
4. We recognise the need to boost trade and investment to both foster productivity and inclusive and sustainable growth.
5. We need further work to strengthen our understanding of the causes of slow productivity growth and possible links to increased income inequality and inequalities of opportunities.

DECLARE that we:

1. Support the work of the OECD to improve our understanding of the micro and macro-economic underpinnings of aggregate productivity growth and possible links between firm-level productivity, the allocation of resources, increased income inequality and inequalities of opportunities.
2. Call on the OECD to:
 - Identify policies to foster productivity growth while considering its possible impact on inclusive and sustainable growth, promoting synergies and identifying possible interactions.
 - Strengthen our understanding of the relationships between skills, productivity and inclusive growth.
 - Explore policies to reap the benefits of the digitalisation of the economy and societies, and assess its impact on both productivity and inclusive growth in the short and long term.
 - Promote measures to ensure a level-playing field for business by assessing the factors affecting the well-functioning of markets and market entry or exit in specific markets; including those associated with R&D support, regulation, obstacles to trade and foreign investment, competition and taxation.
 - Further explore the contribution of the public sector to productivity.
 - Work further to improve the measurement of public and private sector productivity.
3. Plan to work to foster a dynamic business environment and inclusive labour market for enhancing productivity growth and reducing inequalities, while recognising the benefits of social dialogue.

About the OECD

The OECD is a unique forum where governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and to help governments respond to new developments and concerns, such as corporate governance, the information economy and the challenges of an ageing population. The Organisation provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies.

The OECD Member countries are: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, 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, Poland, Portugal, the Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States. The European Union takes part in the work of the OECD.

OECD Legal Instruments

Since the creation of the OECD in 1961, around 460 substantive legal instruments have been developed within its framework. These include OECD Acts (i.e. the Decisions and Recommendations adopted by the OECD Council in accordance with the OECD Convention) and other legal instruments developed within the OECD framework (e.g. Declarations, international agreements).

All substantive OECD legal instruments, whether in force or abrogated, are listed in the online Compendium of OECD Legal Instruments. They are presented in five categories:

- **Decisions** are adopted by Council and are legally binding on all Members except those which abstain at the time of adoption. They set out specific rights and obligations and may contain monitoring mechanisms.
- **Recommendations** are adopted by Council and are not legally binding. They represent a political commitment to the principles they contain and entail an expectation that Adherents will do their best to implement them.
- **Substantive Outcome Documents** are adopted by the individual listed Adherents rather than by an OECD body, as the outcome of a ministerial, high-level or other meeting within the framework of the Organisation. They usually set general principles or long-term goals and have a solemn character.
- **International Agreements** are negotiated and concluded within the framework of the Organisation. They are legally binding on the Parties.
- **Arrangement, Understanding and Others:** several other types of substantive legal instruments have been developed within the OECD framework over time, such as the Arrangement on Officially Supported Export Credits, the International Understanding on Maritime Transport Principles and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) Recommendations.