
On 20 November, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Gabriela Ramos, opened the OECD Conference on “Innovation in Government: the New Normal” in Paris, organised by the OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPS) in cooperation with the European Commission Directorate-General for Research and Innovation. In her opening remarks, while noting that our existing structures, systems, processes and skills are not yet adapted to the realities that we confront, Ms Ramos stressed the need for innovation across all levels of the public sector: cities, regions, and governments. In addition, she highlighted the OECD’s contribution in questioning traditional ideas and methods, as well as promoting and adopting new policy tools, data and ways of thinking, such as the New Approaches to Economic Challenges initiative.

Launch of the OECD Child Well-Being Data Portal

On 20 November, the Universal Children’s Day, Gabriela Ramos, launched the OECD Child Well-being DATA Portal (CWBDP), a new web-based resource that offers comparative-national data on child well-being. The Data Portal gathers 50 indicators on child well-being and the context where children live. For example, it provides information on the home and family environment of children, health outcomes, education and school life, child activities and life satisfaction, and links also to information on child policies. While underlining that many children in OECD countries are facing challenges such as poverty and inequalities, which affect their future prospects in the labour market and society, Ms Ramos stressed that “investment in children is the path to inclusive growth” and we should be focusing on providing children with the best possible conditions to grow and to realise their potential. She added that the OECD data will provide policymakers with more and better quality information on children’s well-being and inequalities in order to put in place child-friendly policies and to monitor progress.

Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth Senior Officials Meeting, Geneva

On 23 November, Ms Ramos participated in the Global Deal for Decent Work and Inclusive Growth Senior Officials Meeting in Geneva via video message. In her remarks, she noted that the OECD is a proud co-founder of the Global Deal partnership, a coalition for achieving a more inclusive growth model. This is an objective that sits at the forefront of the OECD’s current strategic vision for the future of the world’s economies and societies. Regarding employment conditions, Ms Ramos underlined that social dialogue and collective bargaining are struggling to remain relevant and redesigning their role as tools aimed at promoting skills development, investments, accompanying transitions and upgrading social protection systems.

Greece-OECD High-Level Forum on “Business and Civil Society in the Fight against Corruption to Promote Sustainable Economic Development”, Athens

On 28 November, Gabriela Ramos opened the Greece-OECD High-Level Forum via video message. As the Head of the OECD-Greece Joint Steering Committee, Ms Ramos highlighted the enhanced cooperation between the OECD and Greece and welcomed Greece’s significant commitment and progress in tackling corruption and promoting more inclusive and sustainable development. In particular, she underlined the negative effects of corruption in public trust (only 42% of people in OECD countries have confidence in their governments), in investment (higher levels of perceived corruption are associated with less FDI, less growth and more social inequalities); and in economic growth (the poor and disadvantaged are the most affected by the impact of corruption). Lastly, she stressed the importance of the participation of the private sector and civil society both in preventing and detecting corruption as well as in encouraging the government to move forward with important reforms. Watch the video message here.

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