Presentation of OECD Recommendations on Skills Strategy for Mexico, Mexico City

The OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Gabriela Ramos, accompanied the OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, on an official visit to Mexico on 8 - 12 January 2018. During their visit, on 10 January, Ms Ramos participated, alongside the Secretary-General, in the presentation of the OECD 2017 Skills Strategy Policy Note for Mexico. In her keynote speech, Ms Ramos stressed that the rapid pace of digitalisation requires a rethink of the future of work, as well as the upgrade of skills in order to strengthen resilience and tackle emerging challenges such as the loss and automation of jobs – according to OECD estimations, 9% of jobs are at high risk of being automated and 25% are vulnerable to significant change. She also stated that adapting to this new reality requires greater participation in both formal and informal education. Having highlighted the importance of facilitating technological education for youth, Ms Ramos also noted that in Mexico, while 25% of adults had a superior education degree in STEM in 2016, only a small number of students register for programmes of technical education. Lastly, she stressed the importance of investing in skills and technical education as both will help reduce the polarisation of wages, increase the employment rate and promote social mobility. Read the full report here.

“Gender Inclusion in Mexico” event, Mexico City

During the Mission to Mexico, on 12 January, Ms Ramos delivered a speech on gender inclusion “Igualdad de Genero en Mexico” to a group of prominent Mexican women in the public and private sectors, including the International Women’s Forum. Specifically, she highlighted that Mexico has one of the biggest gender gaps in labour among OECD countries – only 45% of Mexican women of working age are part of the labour force, almost 20% less than the OECD average, and 33.5% less compared to men. She also stated that informality and low social protection exist for the majority of jobs held by women which affects productivity and increases insecurity. While underlining that by reducing by half the gender gap in labour force participation would increase the GDP/capita by approx. 1,100 $ per person per year, she also stressed the need for Mexico to ensure equal access to quality education; fight gender equality in the most early stages of life; fight gender stereotypes and achieve equal pay.

2018 Raisina Dialogue Annual Conference, India, New Delhi

On 16-17 January, Ms Gabriela Ramos travelled to New Delhi, to attend the Raisina Dialogue 2018 “Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms”, India’s annual conference on geopolitics and geo-economics. Ms Ramos delivered remarks at numerous sessions, including “Navigating the Chrome Age: Jobs, Growth and Public Policy”, “Policy, Politics and Gender” (watch the session here) and “Shaping a New Ethos of Geopolitics and Geo-economics: The Role of Emerging Powers in G20, BRICS and IBSA”.

“Friends of the OECD” meeting, New Delhi

During her mission to India, on 17 January, Ms Ramos also addressed ambassadors of OECD countries at the Embassy of Belgium. She focused on the OECD’s extensive engagement with emerging and developing economies as well as the potential of the OECD developing a more co-ordinated form of engagement with the government of India and the Indian business community with the aim of supporting inclusive and sustainable growth in the country.

Bilateral meetings in India, New Delhi

Ms Ramos also held several bilateral meetings with high-level officials in the Indian government, including the Minister for Commerce and Industry, Mr Suresh Prabhu; the Minister for Textiles, Information and Broadcasting, Ms Smriti Zubin Irani; the Foreign Secretary, Dr. S. Jaishankar; the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Mr Jayant Sinha; the Secretary and the Chief Economic Advisor of the Ministry of Finance, Mr Subhash Chandra Garg and Dr Arvind Subramanian respectively; and the Principle Secretary of Prime Minister’s Office, Mr Nripendra Misra, with whom she discussed the potential for further OECD-India bilateral cooperation.