International Diversity Forum, Paris
On 22 January, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Gabriela Ramos, delivered closing remarks, alongside the Head of Partnerships and International Development of the Club XXIe Siècle, Ms Khadja Mouhaddab, at the International Diversity Forum “Making the Most of Diverse Societies” that took place at the OECD. The Forum was organised by the OECD Centre for Opportunity and Equality (COPE), in co-operation with the Club XXIe Siècle. Highlighting that diversity is crucial to our success as a global community, Ms Ramos said that that a whole-of-government approach is necessary in order to tackle the challenges to diversity and particularly when building a truly inclusive labour market. She also highlighted a number of OECD initiatives and projects focusing on these issues, including: the Inclusive Growth Initiative, the Global Competency Framework and the “Diversity at work” project.

Bilateral meeting with the Minister of Agroindustry of Argentina, Paris
On 24 January, Ms Ramos held a bilateral meeting with the Minister of Agroindustry of Argentina, Mr Luis Miguel Etchevehere, at the OECD. Ms Ramos welcomed Argentina’s accession to the OECD. Their discussions also focused upon Argentina’s accession to the OECD.

High-Level Conference on Policies for Equal Ageing: A Life-Course Approach, Ljubljana
On 25 January, Ms Gabriela Ramos travelled to Ljubljana, Slovenia, to participate in the High-Level Conference on Policies for Equal Ageing: A Life-Course Approach where she delivered opening remarks alongside the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr Karl Erjavec. Ms Ramos underlined that supporting governments around the world to address inequalities along the life course is one of the key objectives of the OECD and a central issue of the OECD’s Inclusive Growth Initiative. Ms Ramos highlighted the main findings of the OCDE’s recent Preventing Ageing Unequally report which highlights that inequalities in education, health, employment and earnings accumulate and compound over the life cycle, leading to deeply entrenched divisions by the time people reach the age of 50.

At the margins of the conference, Ms Ramos also held bilateral meetings with several high-level officials, including the Slovenian Minister without Portfolio responsible for Foreign Affairs of Slovenia, Mr Karl Erjavec; the Argentinian Minister of Health, Mr Adolfo Rubinstein; and the Japanese State Minister of Health, Labour and Welfare, Mr Hideki Makihara.

Private Finance for Sustainable Development, Paris
On 29 January, Ms Ramos delivered opening remarks at the OECD inaugural Conference on Private Finance for Sustainable Development in Paris. Highlighting that the 2030 Agenda calls for the most ambitious financing strategy for development ever, she underlined the OECD’s important contribution in providing a holistic framework, data and concrete solutions to help navigate the global development finance architecture, including the “Making Blended Finance Work for the Sustainable Development Goals” report and the OECD flagship publication “Global Outlook on Finance for Development” which was launched at last year’s UN General Assembly.

Memorandum of Understanding between the OECD and the Union for the Mediterranean, Paris 30 January
On 30 January, Ms Ramos signed, on behalf of the OECD, a Memorandum of Understanding with the Union for the Mediterranean to intensify co-operation between the two Organisations and advance inclusive and sustainable growth in the Southern Mediterranean region. The priority areas targeted under the MoU are: youth employability; local economic and employment development; public-private dialogue; women’s empowerment; urban development and transport, as well as green growth and economic resilience building. (Read the press release here).