Bilateral Meeting with UK Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Paris

On 5 March, the OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, and the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Gabriela Ramos, held a bilateral meeting with the Rt Hon Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Asia and the Pacific, Foreign & Commonwealth Office, who is also the UK Minister responsible for the OECD. Their discussions focused upon the OECD-UK co-operation on issues such as anti-corruption, tax and health.

During the Minister’s visit, a breakfast and a roundtable were organised with OECD Directors and senior Staff. Speaking at these events, Ms Ramos underlined the OECD’s long history of co-operation with the UK as well as the Organisation’s role as a standard setter and its recent work on Inclusive Growth, NAEC and Going Digital. She also focused on “Outreach / Accession - OECD Strategic issues”, and particularly on the OECD’s relations with its Key Partners and its programmes in South East Asia.

International Day of the Woman, Australian Embassy, Paris

On 7 March, Ms Ramos delivered remarks at an event held at the Australian Embassy to commemorate the International Day of the Woman. Her speech focused on the OECD’s work to foster gender equality. Ms Ramos highlighted that since the 1980s, the OECD has provided evidence, analysis and policy recommendations to help countries bridge the gender gap. In more recent years, the Organisation has been promoting the gender agenda in international fora such as the G20 and G7. Ms Ramos also stated that progress has been made in some areas, including education and employment, where gender gaps have narrowed. However, she stressed that a lot of work remains to be done to break the glass ceiling in the public and private sectors.

Ms. Ramos also mentioned that during the Australian presidency of the G20 in 2014, the economic case for gender equality was brought to the table and concrete commitments were made to reduce the gender gap in labour market participation. She also highlighted several Australian policy initiatives designed to promote women into STEM fields and to analyse data on the gender wage gap.

International Day of the Woman, Paris

On 8 March 2018, the OECD, as one of the leading institutions championing women’s empowerment through objective data and analysis and supporting efforts in the G20 and the G7, joined worldwide efforts to mark the International Day of the Woman. In particular, under the leadership of Gabriela Ramos, the OECD is organising the March on Gender, a series of events throughout the month of March to highlight the steps countries still need to take in order to close the gender gap, as well as discuss and explore new areas that need to be addressed.

On 8 March, Ms Ramos participated in several March on Gender sessions, including: “The Impact of Legal Frameworks on Women’s Economic Empowerment around the World: challenges and good practices”; “Transforming negative gender roles in the household: Innovative approaches”; “Closing the Gender Gap: have we reached a tipping point?”, “A Dialogue with Isabelle Hudon, Canadian Ambassador to France”; and, “The OECD Women’s Network Reception”. Ms Ramos also presented the OECD Toolkit for Mainstreaming and Implementing Gender Equality, a publication that provides guidelines to aid the implementation of comprehensive gender strategies.

OECD Women’s Network Reception, Paris

On 8 March, Ms Ramos addressed the OECD Women’s Network during its annual reception. The OECD Women’s Network has 500 members and over 30 volunteers supporting inclusiveness and women’s career advancement through many different initiatives. In 2017, the Network organised 10 leadership seminars and brown bag lunches, established over 100 mentoring relationships, launched and co-organised new training sessions with HRM on diversity and inclusiveness for senior management, and started a new club to review feminist literature. The OECD has been steadily making progress in promoting gender equality within the Organisation. For instance, 37% of senior management appointments today are held by women (compared to only 33.3% in 2008) and it is also leading the way in the composition of gender balanced panels. These initiatives are making an important contribution not only in improving the way that the OECD functions internally, but also with regard to its work with Members and Partners on gender equality.