Mission to Lima, Peru
On 18-19 October, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, was in Lima, Peru to open the High Level Meeting on Strengthening Institutions and Governance, as part of the OECD Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean.

On 18 October, Ms Ramos launched the report “Integrity for Good Governance in Latin America and the Caribbean”. In her remarks, she acknowledged that countries in the region have strengthened integrity through innovation related to open and digital government. However, she stated that the region still faces challenges such as asymmetric influence, lack of effective implementation of regulatory frameworks and impunity in cases of corruption. She stressed the need to continue promoting a culture of integrity, based on the principles of accountability and resilience.

On 19 October, Ms Ramos delivered opening remarks on the 7th Meeting of the Board of the OECD Regional Programme for Latin America and the Caribbean. In her speech, she acknowledged the impact of recent mega-trends such as population ageing, migratory flows and technological progress on global governance. She recognised that the region has achieved greater stability and acknowledged the important role of multilateral co-operation to further boost productivity, social inclusion and institutional consolidation.

Ms Ramos also moderated the panel “Inequalities, Exclusion and Lack of Trust: Integrity for a Fairer Society”. In her remarks, she outlined that corruption triggers a loss of trust and credibility in institutions and endangers democracy. As such, she acknowledged the key role of institutions in promoting development and greater social inclusion.

Ms Ramos also delivered closing remarks during the High Level Meeting on Strengthening Institutions and Governance. In her speech, she stressed the need to move from commitment to action, drawing special attention to the practices that are most vulnerable to corruption, such as large infrastructure projects or those performed by state-owned enterprises (SOEs). She highlighted the importance of an engaged civil society, as well as the need for the education system to reinforce a culture of integrity.

During her mission to Peru, Ms Ramos also held meetings with ministers and senior officials, including the President of Peru, Mr. Martín Vizcarra; the Vice-President of Colombia, Ms Marta Lucía Ramírez; the Minister of Justice and Human Rights of Chile, Mr. Hernán Larraín; and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru, Mr. Néstor Popolizio, among others.

Mission to Copenhagen, Denmark
On 22 October, Ms Ramos was in Copenhagen, Denmark to participate in the International Anti-Corruption Conference. Ms Ramos delivered opening remarks during the session “Money Management of Corruption”. In her speech, she emphasised the importance of stemming the funds that facilitate or incentivise corruption. She recognised that tackling illicit financial flows demands a holistic approach and a better understanding of the interlinkages among criminal activity. She also stressed the need for more transparency, as well as greater public and private sector engagement.

Ms Ramos also participated in the panel “Towards a Global Norm of Beneficial Ownership Transparency”. In her remarks, she outlined the importance of global commitments to improve the transparency of beneficial ownership information. However, she stated that full implementation of those commitments requires improving capacity, as well as inter-agency and international co-operation.

Ms Ramos also delivered closing remarks at the plenary “Promoting Good Governance for Peace and Security”. In her speech, she stressed the importance of multilateralism in combating corruption, as well as the full implementation of global standards. She encouraged the collection of more and better data on corruption and greater support for anti-corruption efforts.

During her mission to Denmark, Ms Ramos also held meetings with numerous ministers and high-level officials.

Meeting with Ms Dyalá Jiménez, Minister of Foreign Trade of Costa Rica
On 23 October, Ms Ramos met with Ms Dyalá Jiménez, Minister of Foreign Trade and coordinator of Costa Rica’s accession to the OECD. Ms Ramos acknowledged the progress of the fiscal reform, which is crucial for the macroeconomic stability of the country. She also encouraged the Minister to complete the accession reviews and to adopt key laws, in particular the anti-bribery law, during the first quarter of 2019.