



Newsletter on the main activities
of the OECD Chief of Staff and
Sherpa,

GABRIELA RAMOS

Launch of the NAEC Innovation Lab

On 23 October, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, launched the New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC) Innovation Lab with Mr Andy Haldane, Chief Economist of the Bank of England. In her remarks, she stated that the aim of the Lab was to encourage the adoption of innovative analytical methods across the OECD in order to address new policy questions and promote original insights. She also stressed the growing need to develop economic models using experimental and innovative methods.

Meeting with Mr Pablo Ferrari, Vice-Minister of Finance of Uruguay

On 23 October, Ms Ramos met with Mr Pablo Ferrari, Vice-Minister of Finance of Uruguay. Their meeting focused on the Uruguayan economy and on recent tax reforms. Ms Ramos welcomed Uruguay's growing engagement with the OECD and informed the Vice-Minister about the possibility of further strengthening the partnership through either the Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Programme or a Country Programme with Uruguay.

Mission to Mexico City, Mexico

On 24-26 October, Ms Ramos was in Mexico City to launch the report "[Strong Foundations for Quality and Equity in Mexican Schools](#)". In her [remarks](#), she welcomed the recent improvements of the Mexican education system, such as the inclusion of the right to quality education in the Constitution; the creation of a Servicio Profesional Docente (a set of mechanisms for the admission, promotion, recognition and permanence of staff in the public educational service) based on merit and the design of the National Institute for the Evaluation of Education (INEE), among others. However, she stressed the need for further work in line with the priorities of the Mexican education system, namely: providing equity and

quality; guaranteeing all students an education adapted to the 21st century; supporting the professional development of teachers while providing them with flexibility; and strengthening the evaluation system.



During her mission to Mexico, Ms Ramos also held several bilateral meetings with a number of current and incoming Ministers as well as with other high-level officials.

Mission to London, United Kingdom

On 30 October, Ms Ramos was in London, UK, to launch the OECD Report "[Bridging the Digital Gender Divide: Include, Upskill, Innovate](#)". In her [remarks](#), she stated that women are lagging behind in the digital world. In order to tackle this challenge, she emphasised the need to foster women's and girls' full participation and inclusion in the digital economy, while at the same time addressing ingrained stereotypes and social norms that lead to discrimination. She stated the importance of encouraging girls to become more involved in STEM programmes; encouraging female entrepreneurship and engagement in innovation industries; and assuring an affordable and safe access to the digital world.



Ms Ramos also delivered a conference keynote speech at the Centre for Progressive

Policy on "[Days of Populism: Where Next for a Global Movement for Inclusive Growth?](#)" In her remarks, she indicated that inequalities accumulate over time as disadvantages build up from early childhood and carry through into old age, affecting successive generations. She explained that this has important consequences, including: falling levels of public trust in governments, as well as rising intolerance and growing divisions in our societies. She highlighted that, in order to build an inclusive growth model, we must move away from the old mantra "growth first, redistribute later" and, instead, put people at the centre of public policy.

Opening of the 15th DAC GENDERNET - UN IANWGE Joint Workshop



On 31 October, Ms Ramos opened the 15th Joint Workshop of the UN Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) and Gender Equality and the [DAC Network on Gender Equality](#) (GENDERNET), with the theme of "Making social protection, public services and infrastructure work for women and girls". In her [remarks](#), she highlighted that women undertake most unpaid work. To redress the balance, she emphasised the need to increase women's decision-making power in the home and in the public sphere. She also stressed the importance of affordable child and elderly care, as well as social protection systems that provide safety nets to women. Ms Ramos also stated that a lack of infrastructure disproportionately affects women in developing countries. As such, she underlined the importance of gender-conscious investments in infrastructure.