Launch of the report “Pacific Alliance & Observer Countries: An Agenda for Co-operation”, Paris
On 28 January, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, launched the report “Pacific Alliance & Observer Countries: An Agenda for Co-operation”, jointly produced by the European Institute of International Studies, the Copenhagen Business School and the Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg with the support of the OECD. In her remarks, she recalled that the Pacific Alliance is operating in a difficult global context, with rising risks and a slowdown in trade growth and investment. Nevertheless, it has delivered positive outcomes focusing on the promotion of regional integration and the free movement of goods, services, resources and people. She highlighted that the report provides a useful contribution to the agenda for co-operation between the Pacific Alliance and its 52 observer countries in four policy domains: digitalisation, SMEs and entrepreneurship, Vocational Education and Training (VET), and gender equality.

Mission to Schloss Laxenburg, Austria
On 29 January, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in Schloss Laxenburg, Austria, to open the Second Meeting of the Task Force on Systems Thinking, Anticipation and Resilience, in the context of the OECD-IIASA Strategic Partnership on Systems Approaches.

In her remarks, she underlined that the Partnership can play an important role in providing the scientific basis for a new systems approach that can integrate social, environmental, historical and cultural aspects in economic thinking. To produce such an approach and persuade policymakers to adopt it, she stressed the need for theoretical debate, institutional change and new tools and methodologies.

First G7 Sherpa Meeting in Lyon, France
On 4 February, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in Lyon, France, to participate in the First G7 Sherpa Meeting. Ms Ramos delivered a presentation on “Inequalities and Social Mobility in the G7: From Diagnosis to Action”. In her remarks, she presented OECD analysis and evidence on the high – and widening – income and wealth inequalities, the uneven opportunities across society, low social mobility and the increasing vulnerability of the middle-class. She also underlined the toxic impact of those trends on social cohesion and democracy. She proposed several options for moving the discussion forward in the G7, with OECD support, including: keeping track of progress through a robust set of indicators, sharing lessons of what works best, and evaluating the impact of policy reforms. She also made a call to change the economic paradigm to prioritise policies that can reverse these trends.

Meeting with Mr Philippe Étienne, French Sherpa to the G7, Paris
On 8 February, the OECD Secretary-General, Mr Angel Gurría and Ms Gabriela Ramos held a meeting with Mr Philippe Étienne, the French Sherpa to the G7, to discuss the OECD’s contributions to the agenda of the French G7 Presidency, including: the fight against inequalities, digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate, and a closer partnership between Africa and the G7. Following their meeting, a Special Council Meeting with Mr Philippe Étienne, Paris
During her mission to Geneva, Ms Ramos also held bilateral meetings with high-level officials, including Mr Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary-General of the UNCTAD, Mr Tim Yeoend, WTO Sherpa, and Ms Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Mission to Geneva, Switzerland
On 5 February, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in Geneva, Switzerland, to participate in the High-Level Conference on Universal Social Protection. In her opening remarks, she stressed that investment in social protection is crucial for tackling poverty, vulnerability, and social exclusion. She highlighted that informal, temporary, and non-standard workers risk falling outside social protection systems. The risk is greater for women, who are more likely to work in the informal economy. Ms Ramos proposed enrolling vulnerable and informal workers in contributory schemes, expanding conditional cash transfers and promoting equitable and sustainable financing of social protection, potentially through better tax collection.

In her remarks, she commended France’s commitment to make the fight against inequalities, digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI), climate, and a closer partnership between Africa and the G7. Following their meeting, a Special Council Meeting with Mr Philippe Étienne, Paris
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