TUAC Roundtable on Wage and Employment Gender Gaps, Paris

On 12 March, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, delivered opening remarks at the TUAC Roundtable on Wage and Employment Gender Gaps, in the context of the OECD’s March on Gender, in Paris. In her speech, she stressed that the employment rate gap between women and men across the OECD is relatively small for childless individuals (5 percentage points), while it reaches 23 percentage points when comparing men and women who have at least one child aged 0-14. Ms Ramos underlined the need for access to affordable childcare, as well as paid parental leave and flexible working schemes for fathers. She noted that the OECD is working on this topic through various channels, including: monitoring the introduction of pay transparency rules in many countries, boosting the Inclusive Growth agenda, and promoting quality employment through its new Jobs Strategy, among others.

Ms Ramos also took part in a panel session on “Regional Contributions in Defence of Multilateralism”. In her remarks, she underlined that multilateralism has never been more important in tackling the challenges created by rapid global integration. However, Ms Ramos also stressed the concern of multilateralism being increasingly doubted and coming under attack, adding that this could weaken the capacity of multilateral fora to function properly and could erode their ambitions. As such, Ms Ramos emphasised the need to better distribute the benefits of global integration and further level the playing field.

Mission to Berlin

On 18–19 March, Ms Gabriela Ramos was in Berlin, Germany, to participate in the Global Solutions Summit, as well as in the Fourth New Paradigm Workshop organised by the European Climate Foundation.

On 18 March, Ms Ramos participated in the opening plenary on “Recoupling Social and Economic Progress – Towards Global Paradigm Change”. In her remarks, she stated that a decade since the onset of the crisis, the global expansion is losing steam; income and wealth inequalities are rising; trust is declining; and there is a growing backlash against globalisation. She stressed the importance of breaking out of economic silos to rethink how economies evaluate progress. She also emphasised the need for better, more granular information and data. Ms Ramos highlighted that the OECD is promoting inclusiveness as the ultimate goal of all its policy recommendations, through initiatives and tools such as Inclusive Growth, Going beyond GDP, the Well-Being Framework and NAEC, among others.

In addition, Ms Ramos delivered remarks at the Meeting on Financing Climate Futures:

Rethinking Infrastructure — Investing in Low Emission, Resilient Development. In her speech, she stated that climate change is one of the most pressing global challenges of our time. As such, she underlined that it requires an ambitious and coordinated multilateral response that takes into consideration how climate impacts and climate policies will affect groups of people differently. She also stressed the need to move away from the “grow first - distribute later” and the “grow first - clean later” narratives. Ms Ramos mentioned that the OECD’s report Financing Climate Futures: Rethinking Infrastructure proposes specific actions to find a common path towards a low-emission, resilient future.

On 19 March, Ms Ramos took part in the panel on the “Future of Multilateralism” at the Fourth New Paradigm Workshop. In her remarks, she highlighted that we are witnessing, not only a resurgence of nationalism, populism, and protectionism, but also a worrying rise in anti-Semitism, racism, Islamophobia, anti-migration, and extremist politics. She stressed that these trends are sending signals that our ideas and policies have not done enough to address inequalities and global interconnections. As such, she underlined the need to put people at the centre of the growth narrative. Ms Ramos also emphasised that workers need effective social safety nets, affordable quality healthcare and housing, and better education and skills. She added that a people-centred growth could only spring from well-governed markets, which have healthy competition, integrity and responsible business conduct at their heart.