On 20 March, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, delivered opening remarks at the 2019 OECD Global Anti-Corruption & Integrity Forum on “Tech for Trust”, in Paris. In her speech, she stated that new technologies, such as blockchain and big data analytics, could mitigate corruption risks and promote integrity, as well as help increase information flow between citizens and governments. However, she highlighted that they could also become potential platforms for illicit trade, money laundering and tax evasion. In order to reach the ‘Planet Integrity’ goal, Ms Ramos stressed the importance of comprehensive international co-operation, strong international instruments, and an effective implementation of global anti-corruption and integrity standards. She also emphasised the need for governance frameworks that are accountable and transparent, as well as more and better data and metrics.

In the context of the Forum, Ms Ramos also held a bilateral meeting with Ms Delia Ferreira Rubio, Chair of Transparency International. Ms Ramos briefed her on the OECD’s work on anti-corruption and integrity, including on anti-bribery, SOEs, and data collection. She also mentioned that the OECD supports the G20 anti-corruption agenda by providing Japan’s Presidency with inputs on infrastructure and integrity, whistle-blower protection, and managing conflict of interest, among others.

NAEC seminar with Professor Unger on “The Knowledge Economy”, Paris

On 20 March, Ms Gabriela Ramos delivered opening remarks at a seminar on the Knowledge Economy with Professor Roberto Unger organised by New Approaches to Economic Challenges (NAEC), in Paris. In her remarks, she stated that Professor Unger’s new book “The Knowledge Economy” focuses, among others, on the conditions that are required to promote economy-wide diffusion, adding that this is aligned to numerous strands of the OECD’s work such as the Productivity-Inclusiveness Nexus and the Inclusive Growth initiative.

Meeting with Korea’s G20 Sherpa, Mr Kyonglim Choi

On 20 March, Ms Gabriela Ramos held a bilateral meeting with Korea’s G20 Sherpa, Mr Kyonglim Choi. During the meeting, they discussed topics such as trade, the digital, tax, steel capacity, ageing, climate, energy and migration. Ms Ramos briefed him on the OECD’s work on digital trade and e-commerce, including a framework for defining and analysing digital trade, data on the digital Service Trade Restrictions Index, and digital taxation.

“Time to Unlock the Potential of Women Entrepreneurs”, Paris

On 27 March, Ms Gabriela Ramos delivered closing remarks at a panel on “Time to Unlock the Potential of Women Entrepreneurs” in the context of the OECD’s March on Gender, in Paris. In her speech, she stressed that there is a persistent idea that entrepreneurship is “masculine”, and that this type of thinking is being diffused in social media, in education and even in policymaking. She added that this not only affects the market position and the image of women-owned firms, but also constrains the mobilisation of financing towards these firms. As such, she stressed the need to tackle harmful gender stereotypes in order to strengthen women’s self-confidence and career choices. She also underlined the need for more female social entrepreneurs who are willing to make a meaningful economic impact while addressing social and societal challenges.

Meeting with Japan’s G20 Sherpa, Mr Koji Tomita

On 27 March, Ms Gabriela Ramos held a bilateral meeting with Japan’s G20 Sherpa, Mr Koji Tomita. During the meeting, they discussed some of the key priorities of the Japanese G20 Presidency, including: trade and digital; ageing and its effects on employment, health, gender and migration; quality infrastructure and the environment. Ms Ramos also praised Japan’s global leadership in driving the international Artificial Intelligence (AI) agenda forward and informed Mr Tomita on the progress that the OECD has made in this topic.