NAEC Conference

On 17 September, the OECD Chief of Staff and Sherpa, Ms Gabriela Ramos, participated in the *New Approaches to Economic Challenges Conference: Averting Systemic Collapse*, in Paris. In her opening remarks, she underlined that the social, economic and environmental systems we inhabit and interact with are interlinked and complex. She added that the models that we use do not consider the influence of culture, hope, fear and perceptions in their analyses. As such, she stressed the need for a new narrative and a change in the fundamentals of economics, as well as greater collaboration across scientific disciplines. She also highlighted the need for markets and growth to focus more on well-being, adding that countries should provide sound regulatory frameworks that invest in people, places and firms that are left behind.

Thinkers and Doers Conference

On 19 September, Ms Ramos participated in the *Thinkers and Doers Conference*, in Paris. In her intervention, she presented *Business for Inclusive Growth (B4IG)* as a platform organised around an ambitious vision of business based on dialogue, co-operation and knowledge sharing. She acknowledged the important role that business has in providing the skills that workers need to succeed in the digital economy. She added that B4IG aims at reaching a “critical mass” in order to design new business and economic models, test their viability, and extend them if they prove successful.

United Nations General Assembly

On 22-27 September, Ms Ramos was in New York in the context of the *United Nations General Assembly*. On 22 September, Ms Ramos took part in the launch of the 2019 Universal Health Coverage Global Monitoring Report. *In her intervention*, she underlined that health outcomes are directly linked to peoples’ socio-economic status. As such, people in poverty – especially women – have lower health coverage and a lower life expectancy. She stressed the need for healthcare systems that put people’s health outcomes at the centre, as well as for medical data that is connected to the experiences of patients. This is an area where the OECD’s *Patient Reported Indicator Surveys (PaRIS)* can help to take efforts forward and make a difference.

On 23 September, Ms Ramos delivered remarks at the Third Global Meeting of *Generation Unlimited* (GenU). *In her speech*, she stated that youth are being left behind, resulting in high NEET rates and low levels of trust in government. She underlined that many countries do not have a youth policy and do not invest sufficient resources in young people. She presented OECD work which focuses on tackling these challenges, including country-specific youth action plans and national skills strategies.

Ms Ramos also moderated a panel discussion on “Placing Well-Being at the Heart of Climate Policy: Accelerating Mitigation Actions and Achieving Well-Being Benefits”. *In her remarks*, she recognised the progress made by countries thus far to tackle climate change, adding however, that not enough is being done and it is time for immediate and radical action. Ms Ramos stated that this urgency is increasingly being voiced by young people around the world and governments should heed their call to action.

On 24 September, Ms Ramos delivered remarks at the Local and Regional Governments Forum on the 2030 Agenda, on “Connecting Global Ambition and Local Action”. *In her speech*, she stressed that no country is on track to achieve all 17 SDGs and at least 100 of the 169 targets will not be reached without proper engagement and co-ordination with local and regional governments. She underlined that urbanisation continues to grow, and cities are responsible for over two-thirds of energy consumption and more than 70% of CO2 emissions globally. Ms Ramos added that the OECD’s programme on a *Territorial Approach to the SDGs* finds that the SDGs can help cities and regions address local issues; guide decision-making; and collaborate with the private sector. She concluded that the OECD is currently taking this work forward by developing a Localised Indicator Framework for SDGs, which will be launched at the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in 2020.

On 26 September, Ms Ramos participated in the SDG16+ event on “A Decade of Action for Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies”. *In her remarks*, she stated that a lack of access to justice brings huge human and social costs as it cuts across many areas of life, contributing to increasing inequalities and leaving people behind. To tackle this challenge, Ms Ramos stressed the need to invest in data to measure access to justice; hold regular dialogue and compile good practices; and strengthen the business case for access to justice for children.

During her mission to New York, Ms Ramos also accompanied the OECD Secretary-General, Angel Gurría, in several high-level bilateral meetings including with the President of Costa Rica, the Prime Minister of Romania, and the President of Croatia. She also held meetings with several high-level officials and foundation CEOs.