



# BUSINESSatOECD

THE BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Business at OECD (BIAC) Statement to Annual Consultation with OECD Ambassadors

*“A World Open for Trade,  
Investment and Innovation”*

30 January 2017

Business at OECD (BIAC) speaks for business at the OECD. Established in 1962, we stand for policies that enable businesses of all sizes to contribute to growth, economic development, and prosperity. Through Business at OECD, national business and employers federations and their members provide expertise to the OECD and governments for competitive economies, better business, and better lives.

## Introduction

Populism and an increasingly critical perception of globalization have come to define politics in many countries. Today, there are citizens that question the value and impact of cross-border trade and investment. In turn governments are tempted to follow protectionist calls and seek domestic solutions.

This is a false choice. The weight of evidence shows that an open economy, built on global value chains, investment and the mobility of innovative ideas and people creates jobs and improves lives for the many. But we must recognize too that the impact of globalization is not the same everywhere or for everyone. Mitigating the consequences of change created by globalization and the digital transformation of our economies requires substantial investment to enhance the ability of people to participate in the global economy.

The need to communicate the benefits of an open global economy to the broader public is more evident than ever. As a trusted, knowledge based institution the OECD is in a unique position to help governments address the benefits of globalization and to refrain from counterproductive policies. Businesses, large and small, benefit from the deep factual analysis and impressive standards the OECD has developed to foster cross-border trade and a level competitive playing field.

The economic context reveals why this is so important. The OECD projects global growth to be just 3.3% in 2017 and the global economy is characterized by historically weak trade and productivity growth.<sup>1</sup> From the business perspective the response must be a renewed commitment to implementing the structural reforms and regulatory frameworks that support open and competitive markets and which ultimately drive productivity growth and job creation.

We are encouraged that OECD governments recognize this need for action. In June 2016, the OECD Ministerial Council launched a *Declaration on Enhancing Productivity for Inclusive Growth* with a clear commitment to:

“Promote measures to ensure a level playing field for business by assessing factors affecting the well-functioning of markets and market entry or exit in specific markets including those associated with R&D support, regulation, obstacles to trade, foreign investment, competition and taxation.”<sup>2</sup>

This is important guidance for future work. The recent global strategy meeting of OECD governments confirmed the urgent need for new measures to strengthen commitment to open and dynamic markets. In this paper, we offer a business perspective on these challenges and recommendations for action.

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<sup>1</sup> OECD, Economic Outlook, November 2016.

<sup>2</sup> Meeting of the Council at Ministerial Level, 1-2 June 2016: Declaration on enhancing productivity for inclusive growth.

## 1. *Implement the right macro-economic and regulatory policies to strengthen growth*

### ***Setting the right macro-economic framework is vital to achieving growth***

The OECD's response to the low growth trap must be to raise the urgency with which it promotes critical structural reforms. This is why business values flagship initiatives such as the *Going for Growth* report which should be viewed as an essential guide for government policy.

The need to improve productivity performance remains the top macro-economic concern for Business at OECD. Improved product market regulation is cited by over 70% of our members as a priority and this should be reflected in the OECD's work. Ultimately, businesses want fit for purpose regulation that displays consistency, transparency and reduces the compliance burden.

Business also recognizes the consequences of change and so it is valuable that the OECD works to ensure everyone benefits from growth. In the long-term however the sustainability of inclusive growth relies on strengthening the underlying growth potential of the global economy.

### ***We need a renewed commitment to implementation***

It is highly concerning that the pace of structural reform has continued to slow over the past two years and is now back to pre-financial crisis levels.<sup>3</sup> 72% of our members report only partial implementation of OECD recommendations in their country and a similar trend has been identified for G20 commitments as well.<sup>4</sup> The OECD, as a key institutional partner of the G20, must continue to push for a renewed commitment to implementation at this important forum.

### ***Businesses prioritize regulatory quality, coherence and transparency***

To complement the right macro-economic framework businesses need stable, transparent, predictable and efficient legal frameworks that are implemented consistently and which facilitate productive investment. Business has emphasized to OECD ministers the fundamental importance of an enabling regulatory framework and is a strong supporter of good regulatory practice as laid down in the 2012 OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance. Getting this right matters not only to large corporates but is of particular concern to the micro, small and medium sized businesses that make up 99% of all firms in OECD countries.

Adopting good regulatory practices can build trust in public institutions and promote the convergence of regulations at international level. Business commends the OECD for taking the lead in coordinating international regulatory regimes which can reduce unnecessary regulatory fragmentation and so reduce

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<sup>3</sup> OECD, *Going for Growth*: Chapter 1 Taking Stock of reform action and challenges in 2017 ECO/CPE/Wp1(2016)29.

<sup>4</sup> BIAC Economic Policy Survey 2016, p14.

trade costs and other disincentives for business.<sup>5</sup> However, only one-third of OECD countries have an explicit policy on international regulatory cooperation.<sup>6</sup> We therefore support further work on regulatory convergence and will seek to help the OECD develop an evidence base on the cost of regulatory fragmentation.

Strengthening country commitment is vital and we call on the OECD to pursue efforts at assessing the merits of specific institutional settings, in particular Regulatory Impact Assessments and regulatory oversight. Business acknowledges that there is no one-size fits-all solution but we know that strong support from centers of government is crucial to the efficiency and credibility of the regulatory policy system. Business is committed to supporting OECD work on all stages of the regulatory lifecycle.

### ***Competitive and systemically stable financial systems underpin sustainable growth***

Nowhere has the regulatory environment changed more significantly than in financial services. The cumulative impact of many pro-stability financial regulations has created unintended consequences and made it more difficult for some finance providers to invest in economically beneficial asset classes, such as infrastructure or SMEs.<sup>7</sup>

Addressing this situation calls for the proper coordination and calibration of financial regulations, as well as greater understanding of the opportunities and risks presented by alternative types of financing. OECD work with the Financial Stability Board on the corporate governance of financial institutions is an encouraging development. This co-operation could be furthered by examining financial regulatory regimes at national, regional, and global levels to determine their coordination, coherence and impact on growth, while recognizing that financing traditions vary between countries.

Continued attention should also be devoted to financing SMEs in global value chains, long-term financing for the provision, operation and maintenance of infrastructure, green financing, and the greater use of risk-mitigating instruments to leverage private investment into developing markets.

### ***Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:***

- ***Prioritize the implementation of structural reforms with an emphasis on product market regulation***
- ***Step up work to promote regulatory consistency, transparency and good regulatory practices***

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<sup>5</sup> OECD, International Regulatory Cooperation and trade: understanding the trade costs of regulatory divergence and the remedies COM/GOV/TAD(2016)1.

<sup>6</sup> OECD, Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015, p16.

<sup>7</sup> BIAC-20, Financing Growth; SMEs in Global Value Chains: the case for a co-ordinated G20 approach, 2016.

## 2. Defend and promote trade and investment for competitiveness

### ***OECD leadership is needed to promote open markets***

Criticism of globalization often centers on cross-border trade and investment. Today their wealth-creating impact is increasingly dismissed by policymakers and the public with policies and rhetoric threatening to undermine open markets. This adds to our concern about the current slowdown in world trade. To counter populist narratives the OECD must further analyze and more effectively communicate the benefits of trade and investment. Business itself is challenged to find a narrative based on strong evidence that will help address a critical public perception of trade and investment.

OECD has developed trailblazing work in the areas of Trade in Value Added by identifying the role of Global Value Chains (GVCs), the so-called “genome” in trade, and pointing to the economic growth potential of services trade liberalization. Globalization has enabled businesses to provide new and better goods and services, resulting in increased productivity and well-being. Despite these gains, businesses, small and large, will need continued progress on opening markets to compete in a 21<sup>st</sup> century world. Cross-border data flows are such an example. Without data businesses could simply not operate, yet we witness a worrying increase in the number of data localization and other regulatory barriers which threaten companies’ abilities to run production networks and participate in GVCs. Other localization barriers and conflicting regulations across jurisdictions also hamper the production of goods and services.

### ***Countering criticism of international trade and investment agreements***

OECD leadership is crucial at a time when key instruments, like international trade and investment treaties, are increasingly under attack. Business at OECD will continue to underline the fundamental importance of these agreements, including mechanisms for investor-state dispute settlement, which ensures effective enforcement of the substantive provisions provided in the agreements. Regional trade agreements also offer an important way forward if they can develop high-level common standards and disciplines that yield maximum market access and can be used to find a new path towards multilateralism. They also send a clear signal that free trade is crucial to promoting sustainable economic growth and improving the lives of our citizens. We are working with the German G20 and B20 Presidencies to identify areas of government action to advance trade and investment policies.

### ***Pro-investment policies require a whole of government approach***

Business highlights the fundamental importance of effective implementation of the OECD Policy Framework for Investment (PFI), a unique instrument which helps ensure the establishment of pro-investment policies in both OECD member and non-member countries. Following the PFI guidance will help national OECD member and non-member governments create the right conditions to attract domestic and foreign investment and create a pro-investment policy environment for business. In light of the political relevance of the PFI, which recognizes that investment requires a whole-of-government approach, monitoring implementation of the country-specific recommendations should be a top priority for the OECD going forward.

### ***There is strong commitment to responsible business conduct***

Business understands that the need for an open investment environment goes hand in hand with responsible business conduct. This is recognized by the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises which celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Business is committed to playing a pro-active role by encouraging effective implementation of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, additional outreach efforts to non-adhering countries and a well-functioning system of National Contact Points. Emerging economies should be encouraged to adhere to the Guidelines to promote responsible business conduct and establish a global level playing field for investment. Business is also working closely with the OECD to develop practical guidance to help companies follow the recommendations of the Guidelines. Such guidance needs to be realistic and practical, recognizing the complexity of global supply chains.

### ***Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:***

- ***Include trade and investment as priority strategic objectives and help communicate the benefits of open markets more forcefully to the general public***
- ***Further analyze the importance of open trade and investment to increasing productivity and employment***
- ***Identify and address protectionist measures that are detrimental to open markets and cross-border trade***
- ***Deepen analysis on trade in services and cross-border data flows***
- ***Implement the Policy Framework for Investment as a top priority and guide policymakers to adopt a whole-of-government approach to investment***
- ***Promote the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises at the global level***

## **3. Address tax uncertainty to boost investment**

### ***Certainty in the tax environment enables cross-border trade and investment***

Internationally coordinated tax rules support the proper functioning of an open global economy. The Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) project has sought to create cross-border coherence in taxation and business depends on the BEPS Inclusive Framework to ensure greater international consistency. The BEPS recommendations are complex and their implementation must be well coordinated. This is vital to help mitigate the risk of double taxation. As such business remains highly concerned that some governments and supranational institutions have proposed, or even implemented, new rules that are not in line with the OECD's BEPS recommendations.

Changing the way tax is levied can create business uncertainty which is costly to manage and ultimately causes resources to be allocated inefficiently which dampens growth. Some aspects of the BEPS Project have increased uncertainty for taxpayers but this impact has been insufficiently addressed. This is why

G20 and OECD work addressing tax certainty, and collecting data from taxpayers through the OECD Business Survey on Taxation, is so important. The OECD's renewed focus on developing an empirical base in support of growth enhancing tax policies is critical at this time.

### ***Tax policies should aim to facilitate growth over the long term***

We urge governments to take a long-term view and work towards a tax environment that enables growth. For example a robust dispute resolution mechanism that ensures fair and predictable outcomes for investors is a key factor in mitigating uncertainty for business, and governments should allocate sufficient resource to ensure the timely completion of Mutual Agreement Procedures.

Further, governments should take note of the OECD's empirical work pointing to the benefits of cooperative compliance approaches whereby taxpayers and tax authorities engage in open, ongoing and constructive dialogue with one another. These approaches lead to a positive culture of tax compliance, ensuring stable revenue streams for governments and are good for business, as they provide certainty on tax positions.

### ***Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:***

- ***Ensure the BEPS recommendations are implemented consistently***
- ***See through and promote valuable work on tax certainty***
- ***Commit to creating a tax environment that supports growth in the long-term by building cooperative compliance approaches***

## **4. Seize the benefits of innovation and the digital economy**

### ***Innovation, entrepreneurship and successful SMEs make the global economy dynamic***

An innovative and entrepreneurial business climate is critical to sustaining economic growth but in recent years we have seen significant declines in investment and innovation, particularly by SMEs.<sup>8</sup> This is concerning as effective technology diffusion largely depends on firm level investment. Therefore increased government attention to innovation-enhancing policies is very welcome. To be successful, policies and incentives should encourage pre-commercial research and development (R&D) activities which are currently a pinch-point. Today too many businesses still lack access to risk capital and suffer from excessive red tape, hindering their ability to innovate.

Innovation depends upon a culture that enables the appropriate taking and managing of risk. The OECD has an important role to play here by working to address innovation-related risk in public and private

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<sup>8</sup> Dr Jennifer Abel-Koch (KfW), Gino del Bufalo (CDP), Miguel Fernandez (ICO), Juliane Gerstenberger (KfW), Dr Vivien Lo (KfW), Blanca Navarro (ICO), Baptiste Thornary (BPI), *SME Investment and Innovation*.

partnerships. We welcome the focus on developments in open science and system innovation especially on biotechnology and nanotechnology.

We will support OECD as well as the German G20 and B20 Presidencies on critical projects such as the Next Production Revolution (NPR), and will contribute a chapter to the forthcoming NPR Report related to necessary skills.

### ***Digital transformation benefits our economies and societies by enhancing productivity***

The digital transformation of our economies is revealing unprecedented potential to deliver innovative applications and developments across sectors. New technologies are leading to major advancements in healthcare, education, public services, transport, and the environment.

OECD governments in Cancun pointed to the key policy elements needed to support the digital transformation.<sup>9</sup> These include consistent and transparent regulation, effective enforcement of intellectual property rights, and the need to foster digital skills. These should be taken forward in OECD work.

An important vehicle to do this is the new OECD Project on Seizing the Benefits of Digitalization for Growth and Well Being, responding to the G20 Mandate for OECD to lead work on innovation and the digital economy. This is a critical opportunity to establish more robust data and policy coordination between relevant actors. Business expects this new project will also produce the necessary guidance and evidence-based tools to boost innovation.

### ***We need to build trust in the data driven digital economy***

Trust is critical to promote acceptance, adoption and implementation of new technologies and business models. The flow of data across borders is now also a central part of global value chains and a major requirement for a wide range of manufacturing and services industries. In face of threats to online security and privacy, the OECD Recommendation on Digital Security Risk Management for Economic and Social Prosperity and Guidelines Governing the Protection of Privacy and Transborder Flows of Personal Data, are important instruments supporting digital innovation and the uptake of digital goods and services by consumers.

Business cautions against policy initiatives that unduly restrict the movement of data within multinational firms or between related enterprises. Forced localization will be counterproductive to realizing the benefits of enhanced data use and is a significant cost for companies operating across borders. Rather, privacy management and compliance programs, and the implementation of appropriate security practices are essential elements of the management of digital security risk. The OECD should see through the implementation of useful guidance such as for Online Security and Privacy, to help compliance with applicable privacy and security laws and to spread the benefits of new and evolving technologies locally and across borders.

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<sup>9</sup> OECD Ministerial on the Digital Economy, 21-23 June 2016.

**Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:**

- **Craft analysis and guidance under the new OECD horizontal project on digitalization that is flexible and remains relevant in the context of rapid technological change and for all levels of development**
- **Increase data collection and measurement of digital economy impacts on growth**

## **5. Strengthen human capital to build dynamic inclusive economies**

***The world of work is changing and so we need forward looking policies***

We understand that many people are anxious about job security as globalization and the digital transformation change the context in which work is organized, distributed and performed. In a rapidly changing world we must recognize that the best way to ensure job security is to enhance job mobility. The current revision of the OECD Jobs Strategy is a major opportunity to develop approaches that enhance labor market participation, productivity and competitiveness, which are critical to creating more and higher value jobs.

At the January 2016 OECD Employment Ministerial business welcomed the Jobs Strategy revision. We emphasized the urgent need for reskilling and lifelong learning, reducing unnecessarily high non-wage labor costs and appropriate tax and wage policies, to enhance job growth and employability. Furthermore, social benefit systems should extend to all forms of work including for entrepreneurs and to jobs being created in the digital economy.

***The right labor market policies support people through disruption***

Flexibility-enhancing policies, together with life-long learning and the development of strategic skills, are needed to address labor disruptions caused by technological and structural change. Accompanying measures, including early and targeted active labor market policies (ALMPs), help workers successfully progress among or between jobs. At the same time, targeted policies are needed to support employability and opportunities for youth and disadvantaged groups such as migrants and the disabled.

Our members' contributions to the June 2016 OECD UNHCR EU dialogue on business initiatives to employ refugees also pointed to the need for transparent, efficient and well thought-out immigration programs for migrants and refugees, which are vital to a successful integration process.

Effective social dialogue remains a high priority for our members. The G20, B20 and L20 Employment process enhances cooperation and dialogue between business and labor at the global level on issues of shared priority, such as apprenticeships and new forms of work in the digital economy. The current OECD Project on Collective Bargaining Systems is important to understand how across countries collective bargaining approaches impact economic outcomes.

***Developing 21st Century skills is fundamental to competitiveness and inclusive growth***

A quality education, including the development of soft skills, and the opportunity for life-long learning are key aspects that enable worker mobility and resilience to labor market disruption. Business led initiatives such as the Global Apprenticeship Network (GAN), stemming from the G20/B20 focus on youth employment are mobilizing companies and establishing national networks to effectively promote training and job creation for young people.

The skills mismatch for current and future job needs is a major challenge and is rightly a top economic priority for the OECD. Continued development of the OECD Skills Strategy should set out effective approaches for education and reskilling in the digital economy. Business also urges greater effort to adopt digital skills strategies in partnership with schools, vocational education and training (VET), and business to support start-ups and SMEs.

Business recognizes the urgency for investment in retraining and upskilling. It is of utmost importance to address those who are in danger of falling behind because they do not feel able to meet the demands of the future labor market. We also need to change mindsets towards a willingness to change and adapt to transformed industries and working environments, especially among the disadvantaged.

### ***More must be done to promote women at work with STEM as a focus***

At the October 2016 Business at OECD Workshop on Gender Equality and Skills the need to encourage women to pursue STEM studies and related careers was consistently recognized. Companies are investing in women through partnerships with schools and universities, the development of STEM oriented academies, and through sponsorship and mentoring programs. However while young women perform well in school they face distinct challenges once they are employed. We need to address cultural stereotypes impacting the choice to work in STEM fields in particular. Business counts on the review of the OECD Council Recommendation on Gender Equality in Employment, Education and Entrepreneurship to further address this issue.

### ***Develop cross-government engagement in health policies and encourage stakeholder dialogue***

Health challenges are also economic and technological in scope. Healthcare systems in OECD countries have been a major provider of well-being and growth, but they need to adapt to 21st century challenges and anticipate the innovation needs of populations. In the future, society will need significant investment in innovations across the fields of biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, innovative medicines and related technologies to improve illness management and treatment.

To address these challenges future OECD work on health should break the silos and consider the economic, social, and innovation dimensions inherent in health policy design. OECD Directorates including Trade and Agriculture, the Directorate for Science, Technology and Innovation and the OECD Economics Department could strengthen the evidence base on the cost-effectiveness of interventions and integrate comprehensive policy approaches to promote healthy habits and food systems.

Furthermore, OECD work on health innovation could develop a better understanding of how to achieve sustainable and efficient health systems, with a focus on the societal benefits of innovation, technology and the value of new health therapies.

### **Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:**

- **Ensure the OECD Jobs Strategy addresses the role of productivity growth at both macro-economic and company levels in coordination with other OECD strategies on innovation, skills and digitalization**
- **Ensure education curricula for schools, universities and lifelong learning reflects the modern knowledge, skills and character needed for the 21st century, including but not limited to STEM**
- **Focus on gender equality particularly in STEM**
- **Reduce administrative burdens around the integration of migrants, including focusing on skills recognition, language training and targeted labor programs**
- **Explore government and public-private initiatives to promote “proactive investments” and how they can contribute best to boosting people’s health**
- **Examine the incentives and effects of workplace wellness programs on the health of employees and surrounding communities**

## **6. Include business in development and a clean environment**

### ***The private sector welcomes cooperation in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals***

The 2030 Agenda is transformative and sets the path for global development efforts. For the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be effectively implemented however the widespread support and cooperation of the private sector is needed.

To achieve SDG 6 on water, for example, the OECD should promote policies that enable private sector provision. As the Council Recommendation on Water, adopted in December 2016, is operationalized the appropriate pricing of water supply and services should be an essential parameter as should the need to balance different policy objectives in relation to water pollutants. For SDG 2 on hunger, food security, nutrition and sustainable agriculture supporting the development of a robust global food system will be crucial as we reported to OECD Agriculture Ministers.

Business appreciates the opportunity to contribute at the second High-Level Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and encourages this approach for future high-level policy events. Business priorities remain the need for clearly defined and aligned objectives and the creation of policy frameworks to facilitate this. It is also important that fostering local private sector growth in developing economies is seen as a development objective in its own right. Promoting OECD reports such as *Private Sector Engagement for Sustainable Development: lessons from the DAC* would help deepen co-operation between the public and private sectors.

### ***Green and growth can be mutually supportive***

Actions to combat climate change, which is an important component of the SDGs, also require urgent attention. To achieve long-term objectives, global engagement and determined efforts by countries will be essential. We underline the importance of creating a level playing field, and for business to be recognized as a key partner and provider of solutions across sectors. Businesses can most effectively

contribute within a transparent and predictable policy framework that encourages market based options.

For this, it is important to enable business engagement and input, starting with countries' national pledges. Stimulating an 'all of economy' effort to operationalize the nationally determined contributions (NDCs) is fundamental. Countries will need to see through domestic and international implementation efforts and focus on effective cooperation with the business community.

To effectively tackle climate change, governments must facilitate technology development, application and capacity building in both advanced and developing countries. To ensure success the potential for innovation should be recognized across all sectors. Enabling frameworks for innovation and its dissemination must go hand in hand with the protection of intellectual property, predictable and transparent policy conditions, open trade and investment, and a level playing field in global markets.

Business reiterates its continued support to the OECD in leveraging its expertise in a wide range of policy areas to increase the overall coherence and cost-effectiveness of climate measures and other environmental policies. Political leadership and active cooperation with the private sector are needed to stimulate long-term investments to scale up low-carbon technologies and to foster innovation to develop new technologies and services.

**Business recommendations to the OECD and governments:**

- **Support and facilitate the vital role that business can play in achieving the SDGs**
- **Foster an 'all of economy' effort to operationalize nationally determined contributions to carbon reduction**
- **Leverage wide OECD expertise to increase the coherence and cost-effectiveness of environmental policies**
- **Promote a global level playing field in climate policies and recognize the potential for innovation across all sectors**

## 7. Conclusion

This paper is a call to action for OECD governments. An increasingly critical public perception of globalization is creating a challenging business environment. But we cannot afford to turn away from an open economy and risk losing the benefits gained from global value chains, investment and cross-border trade.

Business looks to the OECD for leadership in communicating the benefits of an open global economy. The OECD must leverage its expertise and further promote its standards to defend cross-border trade and investment and ensure a level competitive playing field. Leadership is needed to seize the benefits of the digital transformation to spur innovation and productivity. Only by prioritizing flexible labor markets and developing skills that are fit for the 21st century can we ensure greater participation. Business stands ready to assist governments meet these challenges and we offer a set of constructive recommendations to promote sustainable private sector led growth.

## Annex 1.0 Business Statement to OECD Ambassadors: recommendations at a glance

### **Implement the right macro-economic and regulatory policies to strengthen growth**

- *Prioritize the implementation of structural reforms with an emphasis on product market regulation*
- *Step up work to promote regulatory consistency, transparency and good regulatory practices*

### **Defend and promote trade and investment for competitiveness**

- *Include trade and investment as priority strategic objectives and help communicate the benefits of open markets more forcefully to the general public*
- *Further analyze the importance of open trade and investment to increasing productivity and employment*
- *Identify and address protectionist measures that are detrimental to open markets and cross-border trade*
- *Deepen analysis on trade in services and cross-border data flows*
- *Implement the Policy Framework for Investment as a top priority and guide policymakers to adopt a whole-of-government approach to investment*
- *Promote the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises at the global level*

### **Address tax uncertainty to boost investment**

- *Ensure the BEPS recommendations are implemented consistently*
- *See through and promote valuable work on tax certainty*
- *Commit to creating a tax environment that supports growth in the long-term by building cooperative compliance approaches*

### **Seize the benefits of innovation and the digital economy**

- *Craft analysis and guidance under the new OECD horizontal project on digitalization that is flexible and remains relevant in the context of rapid technological change and for all levels of development*
- *Increase data collection and measurement of digital economy impacts on growth*

### **Strengthen human capital to build dynamic inclusive economies**

- *Ensure the OECD Jobs Strategy addresses the role of productivity growth at both macro-economic and company levels in coordination with other OECD strategies on innovation, skills and digitalization*
- *Ensure education curricula for schools, universities and lifelong learning reflects the modern knowledge, skills and character needed for the 21st century, including but not limited to STEM*
- *Focus on gender equality particularly in STEM*
- *Reduce administrative burdens around the integration of migrants, including focusing on skills recognition, language training and targeted labor programs*

- Explore government and public-private initiatives to promote “proactive investments” and how they can contribute best to boosting people’s health
- Examine the incentives and effects of workplace wellness programs on the health of employees and surrounding communities

**Include business in development and a clean environment**

- Support and facilitate the vital role that business can play in achieving the SDGs
- Foster an ‘all of economy’ effort to operationalize nationally determined contributions to carbon reduction
- Leverage wide OECD expertise to increase the coherence and cost-effectiveness of environmental policies
- Promote a global level playing field in climate policies and recognize the potential for innovation across all sectors