



Trade Union
Advisory Committee
to the OECD
*Commission
syndicale consultative
auprès de l'OCDE*

OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING 2020

TRADE UNION KEY MESSAGES

A ROADMAP FOR FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY THAT PEOPLE CAN TRUST

The Covid-19 pandemic has turned into the deepest global crisis in modern history with an unprecedented fall in global GDP and a massive increase in unemployment. It is a crisis that piles on many layers of crises. COVID-19 did not hit otherwise robust and socially just economies. Many of the key challenges that we are facing today pre-date the current emergency. As we painfully learned from the 2008 financial crisis, governments must work together and take decisive actions against a crisis that could rapidly transform into a political crisis for democracy.

THE FUTURE OF THE OECD

The TUAC calls upon the OECD vision to be guided by the following principles:

- Support the principles of multilateralism and people-centred policy-making;
- Be uncompromising on democracy, rule of law, including human rights and labour rights as defined by the ILO, including mechanisms for member states to be held to account for OECD norms and values;
- Ensure policy coherence across the Organisation, the value of which is more than the sum of its committees and working groups and lies in its capacity to address policy challenges horizontally from diverse fields of expertise; and
- Consolidate the recent OECD “acquis” on inclusive labour market reforms and social dialogue in close cooperation with the ILO.

We call upon the 2020 Ministerial Council Meeting (MCM) to agree on a roadmap for a fair and sustainable recovery that inspires trust in governments. The recovery must:

- Maintain and expand job and social protection schemes for workers and the most vulnerable to prevent anyone from falling rapidly into poverty;
- Scale-up and expand our public health systems and universal access to public health care;
- Engage massive and sustained support to the economy - with conditions on employment and social justice.

There can be no return to business as usual. Compared with the post-2008 crisis, labour market institutions—collective bargaining and minimum wages—have lower coverage and are less protective, leaving gaps for many workers facing the crisis today. The OECD and its members must work towards fair labour market outcomes and quality jobs including by:

- Strengthening labour market institutions and other collective protection schemes related to health and pensions;
- Closing regulatory gaps allowing for precarious non-standard work, amongst other via online labour platforms, and lowered job security by enhancing employment relationship tests and job protection tools;
- Streamlining the gender dimension (pay gap, precarity, unpaid work, work-life balance); and
- Recognising that social dialogue and the fundamental right to collective bargaining are central conditions for inclusive labour markets.

Rebuild economies that are more socially just and green, where value and market power are distributed more widely by:

- Investing in job creation and the transition to low-carbon economies, in the care economy and public education and training systems with the help of transition funds and industrial policies;
- Ensuring a more just digitalisation including by establishing cross-border rules on data protection, access and sharing, new technologies (incl. AI) and by making sure that telework and monitoring tools are not coming at the detriment of workers' well-being;
- Tackle excessive market concentration in the digital economy, including through anti-trust measures and new legal frameworks, and assess their impact not only on consumer rights but also on employment;

- Address global and regional digital divides through public investments in connectivity and skills.

Moving forward entails a reset of our trade and investment system with responsible business conduct at its core as well as addressing the failures of our tax systems to cope with globalisation. The OECD should:

- Review the discussion on global value chains and the trade and investment agreement systems including by promoting the OECD RBC agenda, including accountability of National Contact Points of the OECD Guidelines for MNEs, mandatory due diligence and supporting demand for verified outcomes from due diligence;
- Ensure progressivity in tax systems;
- Achieve a robust and ambitious agreement on tax and digitalisation of the economy, end the mutually destructive tax race to the bottom; and enhance corporate tax transparency.

OECD Governments have a responsibility to provide support to developing countries to avoid increasing poverty. The severity of the global crisis prompted by the COVID-19 pandemic calls for a strong and urgent response including:

- Strong debt relief and debt suspension programme vis-à-vis developing countries, and work with non-OECD members, including China, to that end;
- Stepping up Official Development Assistance and investments for the SDGs;
- Include social partners in the design and implementation of response programmes; and
- Ensuring private sector investments in development are in line with the international development effectiveness principles and the SDGs.

READ THE FULL TUAC MCM STATEMENT



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