

Plenary Session at World Social Summit

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Bathylle Missika will deliver a 5 minute intervention in the plenary session of the World Social Summit.

Speaking points (5 minutes maximum)

- Poverty eradication, full and productive employment in jobs of good quality, and social inclusion are key objectives in the work of the OECD with its members and its many partner countries around the world.
- These objectives are interrelated and mutually reinforcing. For example, job quality and inclusiveness are both key pillars of the OECD Jobs Strategy, along with promoting job creation.
- As globalisation, demographic changes, and AI and other digital technologies transform labour markets and societies, we must ensure that skills, employment and social protection policies enable people to participate in

work of good quality, support them through adjustments and protect them from poverty and social exclusion.

- We need to invest in policies that promote these objectives - but also invest smarter and more efficiently to generate long-term returns.
- For example, investments in skills should be better targeted to those who need training the most and to programmes that are proven to be effective.
 - Adults with lower levels of skills remain much less likely to participate in lifelong learning, even though they need it the most.
 - Non-standard workers, and informal workers in particular, also lack sufficient access to training and often have difficulty in obtaining certification for skills that they have built through non-traditional pathways.
 - In turn, people with weaker connections to the labour market are more likely to be socially isolated and have lower levels of well-being, as discussed at the side event on Social Connections.¹

¹ Event led by the WHO Commission, to which OECD contributed

- Reducing poverty, improving access to good jobs and improving social inclusion calls for stronger access to **adequate levels of social protection** – especially for non-standard and informal workers.
- This calls for financing that is adequate in levels, but also sustainable and equitable.
- Making headways in reducing informality will be key to expanding access to social protection.
- And so will promoting gender equality. The OECD's Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) shows that discriminatory social norms and institutions continue to limit women's economic opportunities, and access to social protection.
- Countries do not have to act alone. A strengthened and effective multilateral system is crucial to achieving these goals.
 - International fora can help countries create better policies to face ongoing challenges. For instance, the Beyond GDP Global Alliance, where OECD is an implementing knowledge partner, discussed

yesterday how measurement that better reflects societal progress can help improve policies and strengthen international financing for poverty eradication and social protection.

- As budgets for international development co-operation are tightening, we need to focus concessional resources where they have the greatest impact on poverty and inequality.
 - This means reversing declines in support to core sectors like health, education, social protection, and food security
 - It also means using ODA to leverage responsible private finance and enhance domestic revenue mobilisation through equitable tax systems.
- We welcome the Doha declaration as an important step to strengthening international cooperation on social development.
- The OECD stands ready to support countries by fostering a shared understanding of social challenges and potential solutions, and by building evidence to identify policies

that are most effective at strengthening social development.