



Launch of the OECD Centre for Opportunity & Equality

26th October 2015, OECD Headquarters (CC-1), Paris

AGENDA

The OECD has long been the world's leading source of information and analysis of trends in inequality in developed countries. To make its analysis and recommendations ever more useful to policy makers, as part of the **All on Board for Inclusive Growth Initiative**, it is launching a **Centre for Opportunity and Equality**. The event will be moderated with two panel discussions to address why inequalities are a challenge to our society and a concluding session to underscore the need for inclusive growth. There will be an open discussion with panellists, and in the final session, participants will be invited to provide their ideas on priority areas for the work of the Centre.

Opening session **Putting Equity First**

9.30-10.00

This opening session sets the scene and discusses the concerns with high and increasing levels of disparities. The gap between rich and poor keeps widening and this long-run increase in inequality does not only raise social and political but also economic concerns: lower-income people cannot realise their human capital potential, which is bad for the economy as a whole and tends to drag down GDP growth.

Angel Gurría - Secretary-General, OECD

Jason Furman (video) – Chairman, Council of Economic Advisors, United States

Session 1 **Levelling the playfield: how to reduce inequality of opportunities?**

10.00-11.15

High inequality can hinder social mobility because low-income parents do not invest enough in their children's education or high-income parents can use their connections. The first panel will discuss how reducing the intergenerational transmission of advantage and disadvantage will help a society use skills and abilities more efficiently, promoting productivity and growth. Health, education, fiscal, social and labour market policies which support and increase the skills, employment and earnings potential of lower-income households are required.

Moderator: Annette Young, Journalist, France 24

Introduction: Stefano Scarpetta, Director of Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

Speakers:

Heather McGhee - President of Demos

Francois Bourguignon –Professor of Economics, Paris School of Economics

Miles Corak, Full Professor of Economics, University of Ottawa

Murray Leibbrandt - Professor in the School of Economics at the University of Cape Town and the Director of the Southern Africa Labour and Development Research Unit

Open the floor for discussion

11.15-11.30 **Coffee Break**

Session 2 **Tackling inequalities through new policies: making growth more inclusive**

11.30-12.45

The second panel will discuss the challenges in key areas where inequalities are created and where coherent policy packages are needed: reducing unemployment and in-work poverty through promoting good quality jobs; fostering employment opportunities for disadvantaged socio-demographic groups, such as women, migrants and youth; tackling inequalities in access to and quality of health care; strengthening policies to reduce gender gaps; tackling (over-)indebtedness of lower-income households in a situation

where wealth concentration is increasing; reducing spatial inequalities through adapted urban policies; and adapting tax-and-benefit systems for a more efficient redistribution.

Moderator: Gabriela Ramos, Special Counsellor to the OECD Secretary-General, Chief of Staff and Sherpa

Introduction: Martine Durand, Chief Statistician and Director of Statistics Directorate, OECD

Speakers:

Marcelo Neri – Chief Economist, Center for Social Policies, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV), Brazil

Aart de Geus – President, Bertelsmann Foundation

Damon Silvers - Head of Policy and Chief Counsel at the AFLCIO

Ana Marie Argilagos – Senior Advisor Ford Foundation

Garance Pineau - Deputy Director for International Social Affairs at MEDEF, Vice-Chair, BIAC, ELSA Committee

Open the floor for discussion



Concluding Session

The need for an Inclusive Growth approach and moving the agenda forward

12.45-13.30

The concluding session will build on the morning's discussions and focus on how to move the inclusive growth agenda forward, including ideas on priority areas for the work of the Centre.

Moderator: Lamia Kamal-Chaoui, Senior Advisor to the OECD Secretary General and coordinator of the Inclusive Growth Initiative and Knowledge-Sharing Alliance

Speakers:

Gabriela Ramos - Special Counsellor to the OECD Secretary-General, Chief of Staff and Sherpa

Daniel Yohannes -Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the OECD

Tim Smeeding - Arts and Sciences Distinguished Professor of Public Affairs and Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and director of the Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP)

Reaction from the floor