

**OECD MINISTERIAL COUNCIL MEETING
Paris, 25-26 May 2011**

***Item 7 – A new paradigm for development
Intervention by Bob Harris, TUAC, Education International***

1. TUAC welcomes OECD's commitment to a new paradigm for development. What we can do usefully in a couple of minutes is to take the abstraction of the word "paradigm", and link it to the reality that our members and their families live in cities and villages around the world.
2. The reality in much of the developing world is this: Unemployment increasing. Where work is to be found, it is precarious. It is neither decent nor stable. Youth neither in employment nor in education or training. Children - especially girls - laboring instead of going to school.
3. The reality is that multiple crises – financial, food, energy and climate change – have set back progress towards the Millennium Development Goals and the Decent Work agenda.
4. Now, this reality is not uniformly gloomy. There are brighter prospects for people in some emerging economies. But the reality remains that without sound policy, resources, and opportunities for people to participate in their own development, many hundreds of millions remain trapped in grinding poverty.
5. A new paradigm for development should draw on the same inspiration as that of Secretary Marshall's speech at Harvard in 1947. The support of North America for the reconstruction of war torn Europe was visionary. It addressed reality. It was successful.

The same vision should inspire the 34 OECD member countries today to support societies that have been ravaged by war, by epidemics, by exploitation and corruption, to have hope in the future.

6. We know that there is no separating of the destiny – or the fate - of the industrialized countries from that of the emerging or the developing countries. In a global economy, we are all in this together. We only have to consider the mobility of peoples – of migration – whether legal or clandestine. Across **all** of the OECD countries, the world has come into our communities. There simply is no turning back of the clock.
7. Two key elements of the Marshall Plan are relevant to the OECD's new paradigm for development.
8. The first is that of resources. If we look at the resources mobilized by the Marshall Plan for Europe, they were not huge in relation to other flows of the day. In the same way the resources needed for an effective new paradigm for development are actually small

in relation to the financial flows in today's global economy. A small tax on financial transactions, combined with holding to existing ODA commitments, would do it. Today, resourcing of Education for All and skills, health and social protection is the way to break the vicious circles of poverty and injustice. A social protection floor is critical.

9. The second key element of the Marshall Plan was to create opportunities for the empowerment of people – including through independent labour movements. We see opportunities for that empowerment today across the Arab countries and Africa. We have already seen its positive impact across much of Latin America and Asia.
10. The empowerment of women is critically important. The education of girls. Combating violence against women. Exposing discrimination in the labour market – in particular the concentration of women in precarious work, and the gender pay gap. Facilitating work life balance. Investing in quality public services. Recognizing the rights of women, like men, to collective bargaining.
11. Inequity and injustice exist in OECD countries too. We support mainstreaming gender into all of OECD's work. We support the Secretary General when he says "*the goal of public policy is to improve the lives of citizens*". We take that to mean **all** citizens, women as well as men, to include minorities and vulnerable groups. All have a right to dignity, and to hope in the future.
12. Equity is the key. Inequity can never be sustained over the long term. An equitable approach to growth is a sustainable approach to growth. And public policy, within nations, and through the concert of nations, through the OECD, does make a difference. That is the bold challenge before you as governments, and before us as your partners.