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English - Or. English

COUNCIL

Council

**DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING AND REVISING THE PROGRAMME FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT COMPETENCIES**

(Note by the Secretary-General)

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Background

1. The current mandate of the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) [[C\(2011\)91/REV2](#)], initially established by the Council in January 2008 and revised in 2011 for the period 2012-2016 expires on 31 December 2016.

2. PIAAC is a Part II programme assessing adult competencies. It is part of the package of tools available to support countries develop, implement and evaluate policies that foster both the development of skills and the optimal use of existing skills. It provides data relevant to many aspects of the OECD's agenda concerning skills, growth, productivity and the future of work among others. To date, PIAAC has involved the implementation of an assessment of literacy, numeracy and problem solving skills in 38 countries/economies in three rounds of data collection. The first round of the assessment (involving 24 countries/economies) released results in October 2013. Results from the 2nd round of the assessment involving an additional 9 countries were released in June 2016. The third round of the assessment involving five new countries plus the US (which is repeating the assessment) will report in 2019. A second cycle of the assessment programme is currently in the planning stage. It will entail data collection in 2021-22 using revised instruments, ten years after the collection of data in the first round of the 1st cycle.

3. Within the current mandate, a Board of Participating Countries (BPC), a subsidiary body of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee (ELSAC) and the Education Policy Committee (EDPC), oversees the operation of PIAAC. The BPC seeks strategic guidance from these Committees and provides regular reports to them regarding the progress of PIAAC's programme of work.

4. As for all Part II Programmes, all OECD Members can chose to become members of the PIAAC programme. This automatically entails membership in the BPC.

5. A number of non-Members have participated in PIAAC. This has included countries such as Indonesia, Lithuania and Singapore as members of the Programme and the BPC. Some non-Members have participated in the assessment but have not been members of the BPC. The main rationale for including non-Members as members of the BPC is to fully involve them in decisions regarding the content and conduct of the assessment programme.

6. The programme of work of PIAAC consists of distinct 'projects', for which countries' assessed contributions are calculated separately through a separate scale of contributions. This reflects the fact that there are separate rounds of the assessment with different timetables and country participation.

7. A discussion regarding the revision of the PIAAC mandate for 2017-2012 took place at the 16th meeting of the PIAAC BPC on 25-26 April 2016. The main issue raised was that of the participation of non-Member countries in the BPC and the conditions under which they could become members of the BPC. The PIAAC BPC approved the draft Resolution of the Council revising the mandate under written procedure on 9 August 2016. As the PIAAC BPC is a joint subsidiary body of the ELSAC and the EDPC, these two Committees subsequently approved, by written procedure, the draft Resolution and agreed to its transmission to the Council for adoption on 30 August 2016.

Content of the draft Revised Resolution

8. The draft Resolution of the Council Renewing and Revising PIAAC, set out in the Annex to this document, follows largely the current mandate [[C\(2011\)91/REV2](#)] with the following modifications:

- The link between participation in the 'projects' which constitute PIAAC and membership in PIAAC is clarified (paragraph 12).

- The nature of the participation by non-Members in PIAAC is made more explicit (paragraphs 6-8). Membership in the programme and the BPC of non-Members is approved by the Council upon recommendation of the BPC. Any other form of their participation in the BPC (e.g. as a 'participant' or 'ad hoc observer') is approved by the BPC by consensus. Participation by non-Members in the PIAAC survey (whether on the basis of an agreement with the OECD or with the international contractor) does not in itself grant the non-Member any status on the BPC. References and terminology have also been updated in order to conform with the Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/REV1/FINAL](#)].

9. It is proposed that the PIAAC mandate should remain in force for a period of five years, until 31 December 2021, unless the Council decides otherwise. The draft Resolution would supersede all previous provisions concerning the mandate of PIAAC. The BPC would return to the Council to propose a revision to its mandate should there be any major developments that warrant such a change.

Proposed Action

10. In the light of the preceding, the Secretary-General invites the Council to adopt the following draft conclusions:

THE COUNCIL

- a) noted document [C\(2016\)93](#);
- b) adopted the draft Resolution renewing and revising the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) as set out in the Annex to document [C\(2016\)93](#), which will enter into force on 1 January 2017.

ANNEX

DRAFT RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL RENEWING AND REVISING THE PROGRAMME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF ADULT COMPETENCIES (PIAAC)

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960;

Having regard to the Rules of Procedure of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Financial Regulations of the Organisation;

Having regard to the Revised Resolution of the Council on Partnerships in OECD Bodies [[C\(2012\)100/REV1/FINAL](#)];

Having regard to the Decision of the Council concerning the creation of a Part II Programme and a Board of Participating Countries for the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) [[C\(2007\)62/REV3](#) and [C/M\(2007\)11/PROV](#), Item 135], as last revised by Council on 22 November 2011 [[C\(2011\)91/REV2](#) and [C/M\(2011\)19](#), Item 205];

Having regard to the mandate of the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee and the Education Policy Committee;

Having regard to the draft Resolution Renewing and Revising the Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) [[C\(2016\)93](#)];

DECIDES:

The Programme for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) is renewed and revised as follows:

I. Mission

1. PIAAC reflects and complements the priorities of the OECD as a whole, in improving living standards and promoting sustainable development and social cohesion through good governance. It contributes to supporting participating Members and non-Members in facilitating high-quality lifelong learning for all that contributes to personal development and sustainable economic growth, as well as fostering the conditions leading to more and better jobs and a more socially inclusive society.

2. The main objectives of PIAAC shall be to:

- Identify and measure differences between individuals and across participating Members and non-Members in key competencies believed to both underlie personal success and respond to labour market requirements.
- Assess the impact of key competencies on a range of economic and social outcomes.

- Assess the performance of education and training systems, workplace practices as well as labour market policies, in generating key competencies at the levels required by social and economic demands.
- Help identify policy levers to reduce “deficiencies” in key competencies.

II. PIAAC Board of Participating Countries

3. In support of the mandates of the Education Policy Committee and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee, the PIAAC Board of Participating Countries (BPC) shall oversee PIAAC and in particular:

- Set the policy priorities for PIAAC, seeking strategic guidance from the Education Policy Committee and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee, and oversee adherence to these priorities during implementation. This includes the setting of priorities and standards for data development, analysis and reporting as well as the determination of the scope of work that will then form the basis for the implementation of PIAAC.
- Develop and approve its draft programme of work and budget (which may involve separate projects) and determine scales of contributions for submission to Council (via the Budget Committee).
- Prioritise its activities and outputs in consultation with the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee and the Education Policy Committee.
- Monitor the quality and timeliness of output results, activities and projects, guide the preparation of the reports and analysis of results and evaluate the outcomes of the work.
- Provide regular reports to the Education Policy Committee and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee on the implementation of its programme of work.
- Disseminate policy advice, analysis, research and data to a wide range of stakeholders.

4. In accordance with Rule 4 of the OECD Rules of Procedure, the BPC may organise its meetings outside OECD Headquarters. The host will accept responsibility for additional direct and indirect expenditures related to the meeting so that it is no more expensive for the Organisation than it would have been if held at OECD Headquarters, except if specific circumstances justify a different approach.

5. The BPC shall seek the consensus in its deliberations and decisions. If unable to reach consensus, the matter will be brought to a vote and will be decided by a two-thirds majority of the BPC. Notwithstanding this provision, decisions relating to the operation of the BPC, the amount of the floor contributions for the scale of contributions, decisions on the project design and structure with major budget implications as well as the frequency of future PIAAC surveys and matters related to the participation of non-Members in PIAAC and/or in the BPC will be adopted by consensus.

III. Participation

6. Membership in PIAAC is open to:

- All OECD Members, which have addressed a notification to the Secretary-General to this effect;

- Non-Member countries whose membership in PIAAC and in the BPC is approved by the Council following a recommendation by the BPC.
7. Together these OECD Members and non-Members are referred to as “PIAAC members”.
 8. All other participation of non-Members in the BPC will be decided by the BPC.
 9. Any PIAAC member may nominate one or more of its sub-national entities as ‘assessment participants’. Assessment participants will be treated as separate entities for the purpose of calculating assessed contributions and for reporting and shall not be represented on the BPC.
 10. Representatives on the BPC should be chosen by virtue of their knowledge about large-scale survey assessments and their relationship to educational and employment policy and practice.
 11. Each PIAAC member shall have one vote, irrespective of how many sub-national entities it may have nominated as assessment participant.

IV. Budget

12. The BPC may develop a work programme consisting of separate projects, each with a separate scale of contributions. Continued membership in PIAAC and its BPC requires participation in at least one project at any given time. If at any time a PIAAC member is not participating in at least one project, its membership in PIAAC will be automatically terminated. Withdrawal from a project will require twelve (12) months’ notice.
13. The scale of contributions for each separate project will be composed of:
 - The distribution of the costs of the core of the activity, consisting of a floor contribution, to be determined by the BPC, assigned to each PIAAC member (other than those which have nominated a sub-national entity as an assessment participant) and assessment participant; and the remainder of costs to be assigned to PIAAC member (other than those which have nominated a sub-national entity as an assessment participant) and assessment participants on the basis of the OECD principles and rules for determining the scales of contributions by Members other than for Part I of the Budget of the Organisation [[C\(2008\)144/REV1](#), Annex II],* using as input statistics the national income data and exchange rates used in the calculation of scales for the previous year;
 - If the project has optional components, the distribution of the costs of each optional component of the project, to be shared only by those PIAAC members and assessment participants which participate in that particular option, on the basis of the OECD principles and rules for determining the scales of contributions by Members other than for Part I of the Budget of the Organisation [[C\(2008\)144/REV1](#), Annex II]** using as input statistics the national income data and exchange rates used in the calculation of scales for the previous year; and
 - In case of assessment participants, the above principles will apply; however, the national income for determining their share in the scale of contributions other than a floor contribution will be calculated by multiplying the country’s ‘national income’ as defined in Annex II of [C\(2008\)144/REV1](#) by the average percentage of GDP represented by the region over the relevant three year period. The population adjustment will be based on multiplying the midyear estimate of the population of the region by US\$450. The source of the data used will be the relevant national statistical office.

14. The expenditure of PIAAC shall be charged against the appropriations authorised for it under Part II of the Budget of the Organisation.

15. Appropriations for which no commitment has been entered into before the end of the Financial Year for which they were appropriated, as well as any surplus income, shall be automatically carried forward to the budget of PIAAC for the ensuing year by decision of the Secretary-General, notwithstanding the provisions of Regulation 10 of the Financial Regulations of the Organisation.

V. Co-ordination arrangements

16. The BPC shall maintain close working relationships with the Education Policy Committee and the Employment, Labour and Social Affairs Committee as well as other relevant bodies of the Organisation working on issues related to assessment, educational, training and employment outcomes, as well productivity and economic growth, in particular the Governing Board of the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation and the Committee for Industry, Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

17. The BPC shall co-operate with other international and regional organisations active in its field of competence. In particular, the International Labour Office, the World Bank and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) may attend meetings of the BPC as observers.

18. The BPC may consult with non-governmental bodies as and when necessary.

VI. Duration

19. This Resolution shall remain in force until 31 December 2021.

* In the event of a PIAAC member or an assessment participant withdrawing from the project the limit on the year on year increases of contributions provided for in paragraph 1.i of [C\(2008\)144/REV1](#), Annex II will not apply in the year in which that PIAAC participant is first removed from the calculation of the scale of contributions.

** In the event of a PIAAC member or an assessment participant withdrawing from an optional component of the project the limit on the year on year increases of contributions provided for in paragraph 1.i of [C\(2008\)144/REV1](#), Annex II will not apply in the year in which that PIAAC member or assessment participant is first removed from the calculation of the scale of contributions.