

COUNCIL**Council****RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL ON THE OPENING OF ACCESSION
DISCUSSIONS****(Adopted by the Council at its 1438th session on 25 January 2022)****JT03488628**

THE COUNCIL,

Having regard to the Convention on the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development of 14 December 1960 (hereafter “OECD Convention”), and in particular its Articles 1, 2, 5, 12 and 16;

Having regard to the Framework for Consideration of Prospective Members (hereafter “the Framework”) [C(2017)50/FINAL and C/M(2017)11, Item 120, as well as C/MIN(2017)9, paragraph 20] that reconfirms the continued validity of the four criteria initially outlined in the Noboru Report [C(2004)60], namely like-mindedness, significant player, mutual benefit and global considerations;

Having regard to the transformative nature of the accession process;

Having regard to the capacity of the accession process itself to extend the global reach and impact of OECD standards and values;

Having regard to its prerogative and role in determining in an orderly fashion and based on an individual, case-by-case examination of prospective Members, the sequence and pace of invitations to open accession discussions as well as its role in overseeing all aspects of accession processes;

Having regard to the interest in further strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of the Organisation, building on ongoing achievements, and to ensure the continued ability of its substantive committees to deliver on their programmes of work;

Recalling that, as a like-minded community, OECD Members commit to certain values that accession candidate countries are expected to share, in particular on:

- the preservation of individual liberty;
- the values of democracy, the rule of law and the protection of human rights;
- and the value of open, trading, competitive, sustainable and transparent market economies.

Considering that accession candidate countries should not only commit to these shared values but also pursue a policy agenda that is consistent with them;

Recalling that OECD accession is a multi-year process encompassing a rigorous and in-depth evaluation by more than 20 substantive committees of the willingness and ability of candidate countries to implement all OECD legal instruments as well as an assessment of a candidate country’s policies and practices compared to OECD best policies and practices.

Recalling that, as a result of the technical reviews, changes to the candidate country’s legislation, policy and practices will be required to bring them into line with OECD legal instruments and best practices;

Recalling that the Council will adopt accession roadmaps for each candidate country, prepared by the Secretary-General, and underlining that these roadmaps will integrate priority areas for each country as identified by Members;

Emphasising that the evaluations by OECD committees will include a whole array of policy areas, in particular:

- how to shape the candidate country’s structural reform agenda in an ambitious manner as a basis for strong, sustainable, green and inclusive growth;
- how to reinforce the respective country’s open trade and investment regime;

- how to put in place efficient and effective social and equality of opportunity policies in order to contribute to an inclusive growth that delivers for all citizens;
 - how to strengthen public governance, integrity and anti-corruption efforts; and
 - how to ensure effective protection of the environment and biodiversity, action on climate change in order to achieve the objectives of the Paris agreement on climate change;
- i) RECOGNISES that Argentina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Croatia, Peru and Romania have made progress toward fulfilling the criteria outlined in the Framework for Consideration of Prospective Members; and
 - ii) DECIDES, based on the considerations set out above, to open accession discussions with these six countries;
 - iii) INVITES the Secretary-General, through a letter agreed by Council, to communicate the Council's decision to the six candidates and to request each candidate country to confirm its adherence to the OECD's 60th Anniversary Vision Statement and Ministerial Council Statement adopted in October 2021 and to the letter sent by the Secretary-General;
 - iv) REQUESTS the Secretary-General, as positive responses are received from candidate countries, to set out as a next step the terms, conditions and process for their accession to the OECD in draft Roadmaps for Accession for consideration and adoption by Council by consensus, taking into account the priority areas and parameters identified by Members. This should be managed through a sequenced approach, taking into account the capacity of Council and substantive committees to handle the accession processes as well as the timing of the replies from candidate countries;
 - v) REAFFIRMS that, pursuant to Article 16 of the OECD Convention, following the completion of the in-depth technical reviews by OECD committees in line with the Accession Roadmap, a unanimous decision of the OECD Council will be required to invite a candidate country to become a Member of the Organisation;
 - vi) REAFFIRMS that each candidate country will be required to provide the necessary resources to cover the costs of its accession and post-accession process, as well as pay all outstanding OECD arrears;
 - vii) UNDERLINES that each candidate country will be expected to fulfil all requirements of the accession process within a reasonable time and to adopt all necessary legislative changes before the end of the process;
 - viii) REQUESTS the Secretary-General to prepare regular reports for Council on the progress made by each candidate country, RECOGNISING that Council may, by consensus, stop the accession process for any candidate country at any time;
 - ix) DECIDES to remain open to future requests for membership from all regions, reconfirming the strategic priority the OECD attaches to Southeast Asia consistent with the Council resolution C/MIN(2007)4/FINAL;
 - x) DECIDES to pursue further steps on the engagement with partner countries including on possible future Membership on the basis of the OECD's Global Relations Strategy C/MIN(2021)17/FINAL and the strengthened engagement with the OECD Regional Programmes in South-East Asia, Southeast Europe,

Eurasia, Middle East and North Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean and possible future regional programmes.