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**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON THE OECD GUIDELINES
FOR MULTINATIONAL ENTERPRISES (27 June 2000)**

Proceedings of the Conference

This Conference was held immediately following the Meeting of the Council at Ministerial level of 26-27 June 2000 at which the Decision on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises was adopted [C/M(2000)17/PROV, C(2000)96/FINAL].

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English/French

**Mr. Peter Costello, Conference Chairman,
Treasurer of Australia**

“I hereby open the Ministerial Conference on the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and welcome you all. It is my pleasure to report to you that the meeting of the OECD Council at Ministerial level has concluded successfully and these Guidelines were adopted.

Over the past two years, OECD has conducted a major review of its Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to ensure their continued relevance and effectiveness in the rapidly changing global economy. I am pleased to announce today that the governments of 29 Member countries, and 4 non-Members – Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the Slovak Republic – have adopted a new set of Guidelines and enhanced implementation procedures.

The Guidelines are recommendations on responsible business conduct addressed by governments to multinational enterprises operating in or from the 33 adhering countries. While many businesses have developed their own codes of conduct in recent years, the OECD Guidelines are the only multilaterally endorsed and comprehensive code that governments are committed to promoting. The Guidelines expressed the shared values of the governments of countries as a source of most of the world’s direct investment flows and home to most multinational enterprises. They apply to business operations world-wide.

This initiative is very timely. It is widely recognised that foreign investment is important for economic growth, and that multinational enterprises contribute to economic, social and environmental progress. At the same time, public concern remains about the impact of their activities on home and host countries. The new Guidelines represent an important step in responding to some of these concerns, while improving the climate for international investment. The basic premise of the Guidelines is that principles agreed internationally can help prevent conflict, and build an atmosphere of confidence between multinational enterprises and the societies in which they operate.

The Guidelines are not a substitute for, nor do they override, applicable law. They represent standards of behaviour supplemental to applicable law and as such do not create conflicting requirements.

The new text of the Guidelines contains far-reaching changes that reinforce the economic, social and environmental elements of the sustainable development agenda. Recommendations have been added on the elimination of child labour and forced labour, so they now cover all internationally recognised core labour standards.

A recommendation on human rights has been introduced, and new chapters on combating corruption and consumer protection have been added. The environment section now encourages multinational enterprises to raise their environmental performance through improved internal environmental management and better contingency planning for environmental impacts. The chapter on disclosure and transparency has been updated to reflect the OECD Principles on Corporate Governance, and to encourage social and environmental responsibility.

Implementation procedures have been significantly improved, while the Guidelines recommendations are addressed to business, governments through their network of National Contact Points are responsible for promoting the Guidelines, handling enquires and helping to resolve issues that arise in specific circumstances. The review has provided considerable guidance to help National Contact Points to carry out their duties and it has established mechanisms for promoting transparency, accountability and best practice.

The OECD Committee on International Investment and Multinational Enterprises remains the responsible body for clarifying the meaning of the Guidelines and overseeing their effectiveness. The review process itself deserves special mention. The CIME conducted an extensive series of consultations with business, community, labour representatives, non-governmental organisations and non-member countries. Opportunities for public comment were offered by the Internet. This effort towards increased transparency and openness provided essential inputs for the review and reflects an important evolution in the way OECD goes about its business.

For decades the OECD has promoted co-operation on international investment through its declaration on international investment and multinational enterprises. The Declaration sets forth non-binding principles and standards addressed both to governments and to enterprises. The Guidelines, which are addressed to enterprises remain an important part of this balanced package and contribute to a favourable investment climate. The other elements of the package contain commitments by governments to provide national treatment for foreign-controlled enterprises to avoid imposing conflicting requirements on enterprises and to co-operate regarding investment incentives and disincentives.

Non-OECD members are encouraged to adhere to this Declaration.

A final point. I would like to emphasise that the task of making the Guidelines a meaningful instrument for the international business community has only just begun. The ongoing support and involvement of the business community, labour representatives and non-governmental organisations will be crucial if the revised Guidelines are to be a useful reference point and tool for promoting corporate social responsibility. Non-adhering governments too have an important contribution to make. Ultimately, the success and effectiveness of the Guidelines will depend on the responsibility and good faith of all parties involved with their promotion and implementation.

Shortly, we will be having interventions from a number of countries, which I will invite to make a statement. But could I, at this stage, ask the Secretary-General of the OECD, Mr. Don Johnston, to make some opening comments.”

Mr. Donald Johnston, Secretary-General of the OECD

“You have covered well the importance of the Guidelines and the substance of what they are designed to accomplish. Let me thus limit my remarks to how I perceive the importance, from the OECD’s point of view, of these revised Guidelines.

Bear in mind that the first Guidelines were adopted in 1976. If they were important then, in terms of the conduct of multinational enterprises, imagine how important they are today in the age of globalisation, as we enter the 21st century.

This is a very timely exercise, and very compatible with so much of the work which has been conducted within this Organisation, especially looking out beyond the OECD membership itself. These Guidelines are global in application. In other words, the multinational enterprises within the OECD will be applying these Guidelines and principles of corporate conduct well beyond the OECD membership. As I pointed out, the OECD Secretariat has relationships with some 70 non-member countries, and the multinational enterprises within OECD Member countries reach into every area of the globe.

The Guidelines represent a significant vehicle for the transmission of best practices of corporate conduct in the environmental, social and economic areas.

I think we can look to the business community, represented here today by the Chairman of BIAC, as a true partner in bringing to the rest of the world these principles of conduct, the practices of the OECD. We are also working with other international organisations such as the World Bank, with which we have a programme to spread the principles of corporate governance, that have been established within the OECD membership.

As we move into this century, I think we can look forward with enthusiasm to working with the business community to continue to play this role, not simply to relieve the fears of those that consider that multinational enterprises can sometimes be a negative force, but also to show how multinational enterprises can have a very positive impact on globalisation.

The Guidelines are thus a major contribution and, to conclude, I would like to thank all who have contributed to this exercise, who have been able to overcome difficulties, find compromises, and complete the negotiations in order to bring this day about. Because as I say, I think this is a very important singular event, as we enter the 21st century, and as we make a real effort to bring the best practices of this Organisation and the business community to the global universe.”

Mr. François Huwart, State Secretary, Foreign Trade (France)

“For the French Government, keeping globalisation under control is, as you know, a fundamental concern. We believe that the international economy cannot be allowed to develop in an anarchic manner, with no rules, and that we have on the contrary an obligation to ensure that its development is balanced.

On the initiative of France and the European Union, the regulation of globalisation has been put on the agenda of every international organisation. We consider it to be the primary focus of the World Trade Organisation and, with the revision of the Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, the same is now true for the OECD as well.

The negotiations were very difficult, testifying to the quality and exacting nature of the text, which may have posed problems for certain OECD countries. I am glad that we were able to complete the task this morning.

I also wanted to say that I appreciate the very significant strides made during the negotiations. The Guidelines are an undoubted improvement on existing international law: they constitute the only comprehensive text that sets out to define what multinational enterprises should and should not do. In the area of labour relations, for example, it introduces provisions regarding workers’ fundamental rights, as recognised by the International Labour Organization: freedom of association and collective bargaining, prohibition of forced labour, abolition of child labour, and non-discrimination. It makes recommendations for combating corruption. Also, it lays down the precautionary principle in matters involving the environment and human health.

These are recommendations made by the OECD countries to their enterprises in respect of their activities throughout the world, and not just at home. The aim is to promote the dissemination by multinational enterprises of fundamental and universal standards — especially in social and environment matters — in all the countries in which they operate. Above all, however, a mechanism has been set up to implement the recommendations. This mechanism is a major innovation. Through it, harmful behaviour by business enterprises can be made public, and in this way it brings to bear the sort of strong pressure that can alter such conduct. This has already been shown to be the case.

France was heavily involved in these negotiations. Clearly, it would have liked to go further. In particular, it would have liked to explore the idea of a mechanism for certifying corporate behaviour, and we should like this idea to be examined in greater depth as part of the OECD's future work.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, this revised instrument possesses features that are unique at multilateral level. It shows that international negotiations can also result in obligations, and not just rights, for multinational enterprises. It is, it seems to me, a fresh illustration of the fact that, given the political will, it is possible to work towards achieving better regulated and fairer globalisation."

Mr. Alan Larson, Under Secretary of State, Economic and Business Affairs (United States)

"I think we all would agree that globalisation and in particular foreign investment is a powerful force for good, and can do much to raise living standards and expand prosperity around the world. I think it is important that as part of what we are doing today, we are promoting a broad declaration that includes support for high standards of investment protection by countries around the world.

But we also know that in order to make sure that globalisation and investment achieve these objectives fully, it is very important to have it work in a way that raises standards – standards of living, standards in the work place, standards of protection of the environment, standards for human rights. And it is here that these Guidelines really make a vital contribution.

Our experience has been that OECD firms generally, US firms generally, take with them when they go abroad very high standards in all of these areas. This set of Guidelines sets out an agreed version of what those high standards are, and I think it is very important, as Minister Huwart just said, that it is an internationally agreed set of standards about what good practice constitutes.

It is also important that this was developed in partnership, involving governments, labour unions, businesses and NGOs. It is going to be very important that that partnership continue. For this to work well, each of us is going to have to do our jobs in a very responsible thoughtful way. Certainly for our part, in the United States Government, we do not intend to allow these Guidelines to be a vehicle to unfairly tarnish the reputation of companies that are operating as good corporate citizens. At the same time, we are not going to shrink from our responsibility to encourage the observance of high standards of conduct wherever it may be lacking.

In short, we think this is an important step to build confidence that globalisation can operate with a human face, and we welcome very much the co-operation of all the countries that made it possible, and your leadership, Mr. Chairman."

Mr. Charles Picqué, Minister for Economy, Scientific Policy and Urban Policy (Belgium)

"We very much welcome the agreement reached, which clearly meets the concern to introduce ever more ethical behaviour into the economy. I therefore consider that this agreement fulfils a real need. Also, it does great credit to the initiative taken by the OECD.

It may be regretted in some quarters that the Guidelines are not binding, but in view of the uncompromising nature of some of the discussions, they are surely not insignificant.

I also note — and Belgium notes with satisfaction — the appearance of new concepts and new ideas, in particular the increased influence of National Contact Points which are essential to the proper application of the Guidelines. We are also pleased to note the advent of new themes such as sustainable

development, measures to combat corruption, which have already been mentioned, and the defence of consumers.

But I believe, Mr. Chairman, that the way globalisation is going will no doubt require us to be and to remain very alert to the need to update the Guidelines almost constantly. Lastly, I — we — want to see the newly updated Guidelines implemented both rapidly and constructively.”

Mr. Pierre Pettigrew, Minister for International Trade (Canada)

“Canada welcomes the adoption by the OECD of the revised Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. A lot of work went into negotiating the right balance, and I think we have succeeded in that we have preserved the instrument’s voluntary nature while at the same time making it more effective. I believe that we have accomplished what we set out to do.

We are also pleased with the very constructive consultative process — that is to say, we are pleased with the consultation process as such. It is a constructive process, which enjoyed excellent participation by the business, labour and NGO communities.

We in Canada, both in our contributions to international organisations such as the OECD and through our domestic initiatives, have long encouraged our corporations to carry out their operations responsibly throughout the world. Corporations make an important contribution to economic growth and development by creating much needed employment, income and wealth.

Corporations’ foreign investment activities bring technical innovation, new management skills and enhance the environment for competition. But the benefits of their operations go beyond the economic sphere. Today, there is greater recognition of the important contribution corporations can make to the social and environmental aspects of governance. Indeed, societies are calling on them to pay greater attention to these issues.

We are seeing the issue of corporate social responsibility taking on greater importance. Integration of market oriented economies and rapid technological change have focused attention on the role and impact of international business activity. Indeed, events of recent months have highlighted for us just how important it is to civil society that governments find the right balance of economic, social and environmental policies. Equally important, international institutions of which we are members are being called on to co-operate more closely. The key challenge for the international community, therefore, is to build a framework of policy and institutional coherence. We must ensure that social and environmental concerns are addressed alongside economic development. Government, businesses, labour and other interested groups must work together to build bridges internationally as well as at home.

The newly revised OECD Guidelines for MNEs are a concrete step forward in making this happen. They have been updated to address important issues such as human rights, consumer protection and anti-corruption, and their coverage of environmental protection and labour standards has been significantly strengthened. Moreover, they provide a mechanism by which governments can assist businesses, labour groups and other interested parties, such as NGOs, in addressing difficult issues.

The Guidelines will become an increasingly important element of my government’s approach to corporate social responsibility, and we plan to co-operate closely with our business community and other interest groups in promoting them. We also look forward to good co-operation with all Members and non-members that have adopted the Guidelines.

In Canada and elsewhere, our corporations are already making an important contribution to corporate social responsibility through their increasing use of codes of conduct. Through the voluntary approach Canada has adopted, including our adherence to the Guidelines, we are building on the initiatives of the business community.

Now that the review of the Guidelines is completed, where do we go from here? There is much more to be learned about corporate social responsibility. The very interesting analysis that the OECD has carried out on corporate codes of conduct is significant. The role that codes will play in business implementation of the Guidelines is an important area for further study. A greater understanding is also needed on the relationship between corporate codes of conduct and the multilateral trading system. I am pleased that the Ministerial communiqué ensures that the OECD continues its good work on codes of conduct.”

Mr. Herminio Blanco, Minister of Trade and Industry (Mexico)

“I agree with most of what has been said here. I believe that the new Guidelines are better than the ones we had before, and that we now have more effective ways to ensure that they are fulfilled by multinational corporations. I also believe that through three days of constructive dialogue, we have managed to eliminate ambiguities, and have a very good document as regards the Council decision and the annex.

I strongly congratulate you, Mr. Chairman, colleagues, for the constructive work that we have undertaken over these past three days.”

**Mr. Luiz de Seixas Correia, Secretary-General (Deputy Foreign Minister)
Ministry of Foreign Relations (Brazil)**

“The Brazilian Government considers the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises as a major addition to the various governance initiatives successfully undertaken by the OECD in the past few years. The Guidelines should help to restore trust in international business and investment, and to highlight the fact often alluded to in the course of the negotiations by the Brazilian Delegation that multinational enterprises can be capable of good corporate citizenship.

It is indeed our conviction that multinational enterprises can do a great deal to foster a pro-competitive international business environment. They can also contribute to improving the quality of life in host communities, and thereby to promote sustainable economic and social development. We are fully convinced that the text before us is a significant departure from the limited approach adopted in the mid-seventies, as it reflects issues that were still of little concern then to the international community. The chapters on industrial relations and on the environment are a case in point.

These chapters should be instrumental in ensuring that the affiliates of multinational enterprises abide by the same principles and apply the same standards in host countries as they do at home. It is our understanding that these chapters should not prejudice in any way the ongoing discussion of related issues in other forums. In particular they should not be considered as supportive of investment distorting policies under the guise of concern for core labour standards for environmental stewardship. Primary responsibility for dealing with issues of labour standards and environment and sustainable development lies with national governments, and specifically mandated international organisations such as the ILO or the UN Commission on Sustainable Development. These issues, it is our understanding, fall within the

competence of the OECD only to the extent that, as custodian of the Guidelines, the Organisation may monitor their implementation, and it should do so in compliance with their provisions.

I could mention a number of issues that were very positively addressed by the Guidelines. Let me just very briefly highlight the recommendation that multinational enterprises neither solicit nor offer bribes to foreign officials. We have gone beyond what is required by the OECD Bribery Convention itself, in an attempt to tackle the demand as well as the supply side of bribery.

I wish also to mention the recommendation that multinational enterprises apply the precautionary principle, hitherto the sole responsibility of governments in order to avoid potential risks to the environment resulting from their operations. Consumer interests are another vital issue, which we consider to have been well taken care of in the revised Guidelines. Consumer interests are indeed at the forefront of the ongoing work on governance, in corporate citizenship and merit further analytical work by the OECD. It might be desirable, at some point, for the OECD to draft a comprehensive code of best practices in the field of consumer protection.

In the light of the foregoing, Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to confirm that that Brazilian Government shall take the necessary steps, in accordance with its internal legal requirements, to incorporate the present Guidelines as appropriate within the framework of national treatment of multinational enterprises.”

Mr. Jaakko Ihamuotila, Chairman of BIAC

“Mr. Chairman, Ministers, distinguished Ambassadors. In 1976, a balanced arrangement was struck between government and business, in the full realisation that the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises was and is aimed at improving the climate for foreign direct investment and encouraging the positive contribution that multinational enterprises can make.

The Guidelines were and are voluntary in fact and effect and this has been confirmed in the new texts. What is expected from multinational enterprises is good corporate citizenship, leadership by example to promote the effective use of the Guidelines as a tool.

The new text and commentary are, to our understanding, far from ideal or user-friendly, as one might say. Your decision today will be interpreted on the basis of the assurances that you have given us in text and word that the Guidelines will be implemented in the context of the Declaration, in good faith and without prejudice.

While BIAC has addressed you separately by letter with regard to the Guidelines, I do wish to emphasise here the remarkable responsibility that is being assumed by government in the proposed implementation of these revised Guidelines.

A governmental process, the management of the national conduct point, will be thrust into a milieu of opinions and value judgements, many of them not reflected in the political conviction of law and regulation. For that process to be fair, there must be a political conviction among you to keep it that way and see that it is not abused.

For BIAC, the task at hand is to take this now completed project to our broad membership, country by country, member organisation by member organisation. This will require not the nod of a few heads but will involve the interests of thousands, if not tens of thousands of companies, and not the well-

known multinational enterprises, but more and more niche-type small and medium-sized companies that can be defined as multinational enterprises.

We will set about that task and try to do that in partnership with the OECD and with the Member governments, and why not even in wider co-operation with interested parties.”

Mr. John Evans, Secretary-General of TUAC

“The discussion, which we are having today, we see as very much part of a wider discussion, which has been part of the theme of this Ministerial of what are the rules governing globalisation.

The message that TUAC takes from the recent events and the message, which we feel has to be given by this Ministerial, is that global markets do need governance, global corporations need effective counterweights in civil society, in unions, in effective regulation. If the global market is to work in a socially acceptable way and reinforce social development and not be dominated by investment competition, following the low road, the race to the bottom – as some have called it – those rules have to cover social concerns. They have to cover environmental concerns.

As the principle actors in the global market are now the variety of degrees of multinational corporations in their form, which have just been referred to, it is essentially that those rules also cover corporations. But we feel they need to be set by government.

Corporations in some areas are filling the gap. They are going further beyond the Guidelines, they are setting their own codes, only sometimes after a social or environmental disaster has happened. Many unions are actually negotiating agreements also with corporations. But we feel the Guidelines are a first step to rules, which would protect corporations who do observe good standards, who treat workers well, who protect the environment from those corporations who do not.

It is important now that the Guidelines have been rewritten, have been modernised. I think it is important for the OECD that is able to show that it can renew an instrument, which is 25 years old. We welcome many of the changes to the text. We think it is important that it reflects more clearly the fundamental rights of work identified in the ILO Declaration on core labour rights. Clearly we feel in many areas it could have gone further. But we also feel that it is important that it begins to address some of the more complex issues affecting the supply chain and changing the structure of companies. It is important that it affects and clearly states the responsibility of geographical scope, that these are in fact global Guidelines.

But most important, Guidelines without implementation will just lead to cynicism. I feel that is where we have been for the last ten years. In many ways, voluntary has become synonymous with optional. We have had Kafka-esque discussions and clarifications in the CIME. We have had non-existent National Contact Points. It may be a new abbreviation for the OECD – NNCPs.

To today governments here, and we welcome this, are committing themselves to have contact points that are expected to help resolve cases, to make public recommendations – if they cannot, to try and observe the Guidelines and respect them. We are expecting CIME to exert peer pressure and make those contact points work.

TUAC will be engaging with our membership, with companies that want to make the Guidelines work, with you and your governments and the OECD. We will also be working to expose companies and contact points that flout the Guidelines. Our own share in this is to start a race to the top in terms of

socially corporate responsible behaviour, a race to the top, which also applies to export processing zones, special zones, which are springing up around the globe.

The Guidelines are the start of a process, not so much the end of a set of negotiations. And we certainly expect you, along with the other organisations represented here, to try and show the political will to put in place what we have signed.

I would finish with a personal word. There are many times we have criticised the OECD Secretariat for lack of consultation. I can assure them we will not criticise the Secretariat for lack of consultation on this particular process. I would like to thank them for engaging us in this process.

I would also like to personally thank Marinus Sikkel, who I think has led many of these negotiations and discussion in a very active way. And I would also personally like to thank Roy Jones and Louise Walsh on the TUAC side, who have been there sometimes at 1.00 in the morning in the discussions, also trying to be helpful in this process. So thank you, Chair, we see this, as I say, as the start of a process not the end of a set of negotiations.”

Mr. Pieter van der Gaag, Executive Director of the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED)

“Mr. Chairman, as NGOs we thank the OECD for the chance to give our views on the review of the Guidelines. My comments are based on a statement I hope made available to you previously, endorsed by more than 75 NGOs internationally, and nine of the major international umbrella NGOs in this world.

First, I can join my trade union colleague, because we would like to applaud the efforts made by the Chair and the Secretariat of the Working Party on the Guidelines to encourage NGO participation in this review. And we urge the OECD to further develop open and accountable procedures, which enable wider civil society participation.

The Guidelines now make clear that multinational enterprises have a shared responsibility to contribute to the promotion of and respect for international human rights and sustainable development. The review also extends the possibility of increased accountability of multinational enterprises to society, both in the countries where they are registered and where they operated. These steps constitute welcome progress. We also welcome the incorporation of many standards dear to our hearts, and the attempt made to bring the Guidelines more in line with existing instruments and practices in the field of environment, labour and human rights.

However, we retain serious concerns regarding both the content and proposed implementation of the Guidelines. The revised Guidelines still do not fully respond to public experience of the impacts of multinational enterprises, nor do they fully reflect the integrated approach, called for by, amongst others, the OECD’s development advisory committee. For example, they have not been brought into line with the recommendations of the OECD’s working group on taxation.

Whilst we would prefer to see the text strengthened further, the key test of the Guidelines is their implementation. If adhering governments fail to implement the Guidelines vigorously, transparently and effectively world-wide, then NGOs will be left with no option but to oppose actively and publicly the Guidelines. The key to effective implementation is a presumption of transparency, of procedures as well as outcomes, with strictly limited grounds for confidentiality.

NGOs intend to observe and, where possible, participate in the implementation of the Guidelines.

We are disappointed that the OECD governments chose a combination of voluntary low-level standards with a weak implementation mechanism. Unless implementation is conducted in good faith, there is a real risk that the Guidelines will be used to justify behaviour and practices by multinational enterprises, which undermine sustainability. Governments have accepted that the Guidelines should not be mandatory in fact or in effect. This concession is fundamentally out of step with the experience and expectations of many communities around the world who face enormous obstacles and even dangers in holding multinationals to account. As a result, NGOs continue to call for a binding international instrument to regulate the conduct of multinational corporations.

We urge adhering governments to treat these Guidelines as only a first step in the right direction of establishing true corporate accountability and responsibility in the interests of achieving sustainability and to collectively and individually act to first further improve or, as an absolute minimum, maintain the standards and recommendations set out in the current text. Second, adopt implementation mechanisms, which ensure global application and implementation of the Guidelines that involve a presumption of transparency in both procedures and outcomes, and are open at all levels to NGOs and the interested public. Third, we urge OECD Member governments to ensure the vigorous implementation of the Guidelines in a universal, transparent and inclusive manner, and not to allow the discretion of NCPs to lead to damaging variation in standards of application. Finally, Mr. Chair, we urge you to agree to conduct a further review within three years.

As you will see from the signatures to the NGO statement, our attention is focused on the Guidelines. We are serious and ready to explore their strengths. However, we remain cautious about their effects. You will find that we can be strong and serious partners in our joint efforts for a sustainable society. We are glad we have had the opportunity to express our concerns here at the OECD, and welcome further opportunities for involvement in your work.”

Mr. Costello, Conference Chairman

“I would like to thank all of the speakers, who made a contribution today. I think all of the speakers have reflected the significance of these Guidelines: how they have the potential to give direction, and how they have the potential to ensure that standards are adhered to by multinational enterprises in relation to investment. I think I speak on behalf of all Ministers at this meeting to say that although this was a long negotiation, it was a successful one, and we look forward to being able to ensure that this guidance is helpful to nations, as well as enterprises.

I wish to thank Mr. Baldi for his work in the CIME Committee and, as has already been mentioned, Mr. Sikkel of the Netherlands, for the work that has been done in relation to these Guidelines. I take the opportunity to indicate to Ministers that copies of the communiqué will be available as they leave. We are now going to prepare this room for a press conference. I thank you all very much for your attendance.”

ANNEX
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Présidence / Chair

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*Treasurer
The Treasury*

Allemagne / Germany

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Mr. Robert NEWTON	<i>Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Delegation</i>
Mr. David PARKER	<i>Minister-Counsellor (Economic) Permanent Delegation</i>
Mr. Keith CROKER	<i>Minister-Counsellor (Industry, Science, Resources) Permanent Delegation</i>
Mr. Craig BURNS	<i>Minister-Counsellor (Agriculture) Permanent Delegation</i>
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