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Organisation de Coopération et de Développement Economiques
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

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English - Or. English

**DIRECTORATE FOR EDUCATION
EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**HIGHER EDUCATION: QUALITY, EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY
OUTLINE BACKGROUND REPORT**

The Education Committee is invited to take note of the proposed outline for the background report for the meeting of the Committee at Ministerial Level.

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HIGHER EDUCATION: QUALITY, EQUITY AND EFFICIENCY

OUTLINE BACKGROUND REPORT

1. As part of the ministerial dossier it is intended to prepare a background report to support the discussions, notably the issues paper. This report will contain analysis, findings, description and data related to the topics to be discussed. It will draw on existing material and data collection activities in the Directorate for Education (EDU), the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs (ELS), the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (STI) and the Statistics Directorate (STD). It will also be the basis for one of the chapter in the *Education Policy Review 2006*.

2. The structure of the report will need to reflect the issues retained for discussion and the precise format will be finalised once the contents have been determined after the March meeting of the Education Committee. However, at this stage it is envisaged that the report will be about 50 pages long and a mix of text, tables and graphs developed on the lines the recent series of Executive Summaries that have been produced for *Education at a Glance* and recent PISA publications (available in .pdf format on www.oecd.org/edu).

3. Data on the following topics is being reviewed for inclusion:

- Growth in student numbers – latest figures, and as long a time series as possible. OECD total, individual countries, selected non-member countries.
- Tertiary attainment by country, latest figures
- Higher degrees growth
- Proxy data for growth in attainment using successive age-groups
- Expenditure on higher education as percentage of GDP – total, public/private split, comparison over time if possible
- Private returns to higher education
- Social return to higher education
- The impact of higher education on growth
- Demographic projections for 18 plus population and for 18-25 age group by country. OECD total, individual countries, selected non-member countries.

- International student flows – total numbers, market share, net gains and losses
- Projections of international students
- Highly-skilled personnel data
- Patents
- Research funding as a proportion of GDP
- Relations between Governments and institutions – measures of autonomy and accountability.

4. The first draft of the report will be prepared once the content and structure of the issues paper has been decided. It will be circulated to the Education Committee for review and comment under written procedure.