

Thank you for inviting me today to speak about the OECD and its work. Let me first begin by telling you a little about its origins. The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development was established to help countries develop their economies after World War II. It soon became a meeting place, or forum, for the governments of the more economically-developed countries of the world to discuss, compare and improve their economic and social policies.

As an international organization, the OECD is funded by contributions from member country governments. In return, the OECD provides advice, detailed statistics and data on a wide range of subjects including economic performance, projected growth rates for different countries, as well as social policy, education, trade, agriculture, the environment and development.

In the era of globalization, with the new key objectives of sustainable development and poverty reduction, the OECD has shifted more of its work to the economic development of other countries by trying to share with them the lessons – both positive and negative – of the OECD's experience with economic and social development. In today's talk I'm going to be looking at the role of the OECD in Latin America's developing economies.