

Competition Policy and Economic Reform Conference

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, I would like to thank you for your personal support for this important conference on Competition Policy and Economic Reform, which opens today. Not being able to attend, I should like to convey to you my personal wishes for the success of this meeting which I sincerely hope will constitute a landmark for competition policy and economic reform more generally in your country and in Latin America.

Competition policy is essential to promote economic efficiency and strengthen the domestic and international competitiveness of individual firms. At the macro level, it contributes to non-inflationary sustainable growth and a higher living standard for people overall. In particular, policies which encourage both domestic and international competition improve productivity performance by taking full advantage of both domestic and external market forces.

Seeing competition policy as part of an overall reform strategy is also important because reforms in one area produce better results if other areas are also reformed. And a solid institutional framework for stable macroeconomic conditions and their interactions with structural forces are important for better overall economic performance and social and political stability.

This conference is also a milestone for co-operation between Brazil and the OECD. Since 1964 your country and the OECD have been co-operating in various areas of economic reform: in particular, competition, privatisation, foreign direct investment and taxation. We hope to develop this co-operation further in the future. Brazil is a member of the OECD Development Centre and an observer in important OECD committees. Your country has recently joined discussions at the OECD on the multilateral agreement on investment, the development of an international framework to fight corruption and work on international taxation. Finally, your country plays a significant role within our dialogue with non-Member economies, including in the Emerging Market Economy Forum.

I am sure that this co-operation will continue to prosper. Together – OECD countries, non-Member countries and international organisations – we can shape a partnership for progress and economic development.

Secretary-General of the OECD

