Any future instrument should take into account existing national and international guidelines, their mandate, scope of application and existing work streams. In this regard, I welcome the opportunity to update you on the relevant work streams under the **OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises**. The OECD Guidelines are currently the most comprehensive set of government-backed recommendations on responsible business conduct. They provide principles and standards for business conduct in areas such as environment, employment and industrial relations, disclosure, combating bribery, consumer interests, competition, taxation, science and technology, as well as human rights. The Guidelines were most recently updated in 2011, through an intensive multi-stakeholder process, giving them the necessary credibility and wide support for implementation on the ground.

Notably, this update included a new chapter on human rights, based on and in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The update also integrated the concept of risk-based due diligence for human rights impacts throughout the Guidelines, extending their application throughout the global supply chains and business relationships.

Currently, 46 governments, including 12 OECD non-Members, adhere to the Guidelines. These countries account for a large proportion of global investment. Each adhering country commits to set up a National Contact Point to further the effectiveness of the OECD Guidelines, and whose mandate is to undertake promotional activities, handle enquiries and contribute to the resolution of issues that arise relating to the implementation of the Guidelines in specific instances. This, because of the new addition of the human rights chapter, includes human rights issues and contributes to the implementation of the third pillar of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

National Contact Points are tasked with providing a platform for discussion and assistance to help resolve issues related to non-observance of the Guidelines by MNEs. This mandate de facto establishes a grievance mechanism for the breadth of issues covered by the Guidelines. It is one of the few government-based, non-judicial mechanisms, and the only one with such an effective and broad application. As such, as I already mentioned, it is an important contribution to improving access to remedy because of the strong linkages between the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

In this regard, I would like to update you on a few recent developments and the statement made by the Ministers at the annual OECD Council Meeting at Ministerial Level on 3-4 June at the OECD in Paris. The Ministers encouraged the OECD to continue its work on responsible business conduct in its current multi-stakeholder setting, building from the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. They reaffirmed the importance of the OECD Declaration on International Investment and, notably, of non-Members adhering to it. They have encouraged efforts to widen adherence to the MNE Guidelines, and invited the OECD to study options in that regard. They also called on the OECD to continue its efforts to further strengthen the performance of the National Contact Points, including through voluntary peer reviews and the exchange of best practices.
Finally, I also wanted to provide you an update on the recent G7 leaders’ statement in which there is an entire section on responsible supply chains, as well as commitment to strengthening mechanisms for providing access to remedies including the National Contact Points for the OECD Guidelines. In order to do so, the G7 has encouraged the OECD to promote peer reviews and peer learning on the functioning and performance of the National Contact Points and has committed to ensure that G7 NCPs are effective and lead by example.

Thank you.