

THE OECD HAS A SIGNIFICANT PART TO PLAY IN HELPING ITS MEMBERS CONFRONT THE CHANGES AHEAD. IT MUST BE OPEN AND DYNAMIC, ABLE TO HELP US CONTEND WITH THE DEVELOPMENTS BEYOND OUR OWN BORDERS. AS AN INSTITUTION, IT CAN SERVE AS THE FOCAL POINT FOR OUR COOPERATIVE EFFORTS WITH THE REST OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY.

ONE OF OUR MOST OBVIOUS COOPERATIVE CHALLENGES CENTRES ON THE COUNTRIES OF THE DEVELOPING WORLD. THE TASK OF MANAGING OUR RELATIONS WITH THEM IS COMPLEX, DIFFICULT AND PRESSING.

AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ACHIEVE ECONOMIC PROGRESS, THEY BECOME MORE ACTIVE TRADING PARTNERS BUT IF THEY CANNOT SERVICE THEIR EXTERNAL DEBT, THERE ARE IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES FOR CREDITOR GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR INTERNATIONAL TRADE.

IF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES HAVE DIFFICULTIES IN SAFEGUARDING THEIR PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, WE TOO WILL SUFFER THE IMPACT. THE FACT THEY BELIEVE THEY CANNOT FOLLOW APPROPRIATE ENVIRONMENT POLICIES MEANS THEIR POTENTIAL FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IS IMPAIRED AND HAS ENVIRONMENTAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES AFFECTING ALL OF US.

AND IF WE ARE UNABLE TO COOPERATE AS WE MUST TO ENSURE A GROWING, STABLE WORLD ECONOMY, WITH OPEN MARKETS, OUR DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND THE EFFORTS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES THEMSELVES WILL HAVE LITTLE SUSTAINED BENEFIT.