



**Closing Statement by H.E. Mr. Miloš Koterec
President of ECOSOC**

**Global Preparatory Meeting
3 April 2012, New York**

Excellencies,
Under-Secretary-General Mr. Sha,
Distinguished delegates,

We have come to the end of this Global Preparatory Meeting and I would like to thank all of our speakers and participants once again for their invaluable contributions.

A comprehensive summary of today's deliberations and key policy messages will be prepared for discussion at the Annual Ministerial Review and inclusion in the Ministerial Declaration.

As discussed today, an intersectoral approach is required to tackle the employment issue. Economic, social and environmental policies need to be developed together with employment policies. If the membership agrees, a standing agenda item on "full employment and decent work for all" could be added to the ECOSOC agenda, in order to promote coherent and complementary policies, stronger monitoring of commitments, mainstreaming into the activities of UN agencies and programmes and more effective integration of the three pillars of sustainable development.

Let me add as well, a few critical points emanating from our discussions to date. The focus must now shift decidedly for enhancing employment for youth and women, with the right policy mix to promote micro- small and medium enterprises, investment in education and training, including technical and vocational training, rural agriculture and infrastructure and targeting resources for the productive sectors. Setting an appropriate policy framework around these priorities must become national objectives to be achieved through participatory dialogue.

In addition, scant attention has been paid to the issues affecting migrant labour. This is a growing global phenomenon, with large numbers of workers actively in search of jobs both within and between countries. The risks are often enormous. Social protection and safeguarding of workers' rights are therefore crucial considerations.

In order not to lose momentum on the important issue of employment, we must follow up on today's meeting, as well as other relevant preparatory activities that have preceded it. Already over the past few months, the Council has conducted regional preparatory meetings, a dynamic e-discussion on "Jobs, Decent Work and Inclusive Growth" and the Partnership Event on employment involving the private sector and civil society.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Council's substantive session in July is just around the corner. I look forward to continuing to work together with you on and deepening discussions on these and other critical issues.