



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

**Joint Event of ECOSOC and the Peacebuilding Commission
“Partnerships for job creation for young people in
countries emerging from conflict”**

4 June 2012, New York

Distinguished guests,
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,

We have come to the end of what has been in my view, and hopefully you will also agree, a very successful meeting. I wish to thank all of the speakers for sharing their experiences and knowledge with us today, enabling us to have such a rich discussion to identify solutions for creating jobs for young people in countries emerging from conflict.

As reiterated today, an intersectoral approach is required to tackle the issue of employment facing youth. The challenges are particularly daunting in post-conflict countries. I sincerely hope that the discussions that were initiated today will lead to concrete proposals that can be incorporated into the draft Ministerial Declaration for consideration by ECOSOC Member States. I thank you all again for your excellent ideas.

For our part, we will continue to work with the Peace Building Commission and through other partnerships to address this issue. I strongly believe that ECOSOC can play a lead role in addressing the issue of “full employment and decent work for all”. It can promote coherent and complementary policies, stronger monitoring of commitments and mainstreaming into the activities of UN agencies and programmes. Above all, it can promote more effective integration of the three pillars of sustainable development. The Council could continue to review new and innovative ideas for countries emerging from conflict and share them with the Commission. In the follow-up to Rio+20, the Council should pay specific attention to the challenges that these countries face in their transition to a green economy in the larger context of sustainable development and post 2015.

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without the active engagement of key stakeholders. To this end, the Council intends to continue to strengthen its engagement with the private sector, foundations and other civil society actors that can help us promote the achievement of the MDGs and the goal of sustainable development. It will not only discuss in broad terms the value of partnerships but will also provide policy guidance to ensure a more systematic approach to partnerships that places a greater focus on impact and sustainability.

Ladies and Gentlemen, the Council's substantive session will take place next month. I look forward to continuing to work together with you on deepening our understanding of these and other critical issues in the coming months.