



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

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

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you and thank you for attending today's Global Preparatory Meeting on employment, in preparation for the Council's Annual Ministerial Review in July.

The AMR has established its usefulness in offering Governments practical and proven strategies to scale-up efforts in an intimate and interactive setting.

This year's AMR will focus on, among other issues, global labour market trends and a critical assessment of progress towards meeting employment and decent work-related goals and commitments. This forum will provide an opportunity to discuss measures and institutions that have been proven to be effective in encouraging job and enterprise creation, in boosting skills and productive inclusion, in supporting successful labour market transitions and ensuring that workers have adequate social protection and adequate compensation.

The inter-linkages between those measures and the progress towards poverty eradication and the other internationally agreed development goals necessitate the need for immediate, coherent and globally coordinated macroeconomic policies in order to boost output, create quality jobs and incomes, in line with the principles and objectives of the Global Jobs Pact. In this context, the 2012 AMR will also address the particular labour market vulnerabilities of young women and men, as well as nationally defined social protection floors for social and economic resilience.

In today's meeting, we will hear about the key policy requirements and other recommendations for building productive capacity and promoting inclusive and sustainable economic growth in developing countries, particularly least developed and vulnerable countries. The panellists will highlight economic growth models that promote job creation, are sustainable, inclusive and equitable and can be tailored to the particular

needs of countries, while promoting social protection and rights at work. They will also provide an assessment of progress towards achieving employment related goals and commitments and support provided by the UN system to that end. In addition, they will discuss the inter-linkages between recommended policy measures and progress towards poverty eradication and other internationally agreed development goals, and also address the issue of the widening inequalities within and among countries.

Allow me first, to outline the programme for this morning.

The Council will first hear a keynote address by Professor Erik Brynjolfsson from the Sloan School of Management of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), followed by a presentation by Mr. Jose Antonio Alonso, member of the Committee for Development Policy.

You may recall that in its resolution 2011/20, the Council decided to engage in more frequent interactions with the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) prior to its annual substantive session, to discuss the views and recommendations on the themes of the high-level segment and other relevant issues contained in the annual report of the Committee.

This will be followed by a panel which will address the theme of “Promoting the implementation of the Global Jobs Pact”. The panellists, who are representatives of the UN system, will discuss issues ranging from strategies to spur employment and address underemployment, policies related to improving agricultural productivity and rural employment; to concrete examples of employment programmes and guarantee schemes to tackle employment in the poorest countries.

Distinguished delegates,

I would now like to introduce our distinguished speakers for the first part of this morning’s programme.

Our keynote speaker, Professor Erik Brynjolfsson, is the Schussel Family Professor at the Sloan School of Management of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mr. Brynjolfsson is also the Director of the MIT Center for Digital Business, Chair of the MIT Sloan Management Review and the Editor of the Information Systems Network. His latest book is titled “Race Against the Machine: How the digital revolution accelerates innovation, drives productivity and irreversibly transforms employment and the economy”.

Following the keynote address, the Council will hear a presentation by Mr. Jose Antonio Alonso, member of the Committee on Development Policy. Mr. Alonso is the Director of Complutense Institute of Foreign Studies and Professor of Applied Economics at the Complutense University of Madrid. He is also a member of the Development Cooperation Council of Spain; co-founder and member of the Board of the Association of Spanish Specialists in Development Cooperation.

Before I give the floor to our keynote speaker, allow me to mention that we have set aside plenty of time for interactive discussions today. I therefore look forward to your active participation.