



H.E. Mr. Desra Percaya, Permanent Representative of Indonesia to the United Nations

Montevideo, Uruguay
27 April 2012

Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to use this opportunity to express again our special thanks to the Government of Uruguay for their gracious hospitality. This meeting also would not have been possible without the committed efforts of our colleagues at the International Labor Organization, as well as the Executive Secretary and her staff at the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Our candid discussions today have produced a number of ideas. In July, the Government of Uruguay will present a summary report of the meeting highlights to Ministers as part of the 2012 Annual Ministerial Review of ECOSOC in New York.

I'll keep my comments brief, as the day is late and so much has already been said. While I will not attempt to capture every aspect of our discussions, allow me to share some of the main messages that I have been able to capture from our discussions and which I will take back to New York with me.

Inequality is still one problem that affects the region. Even though inequality has been reduced between some populations, there are still significant gaps that

would need to be closed in order to achieve equitable development. This is especially problematic for traditionally disadvantaged groups including women, the youth, and the poor.

There have been encouraging developments in addressing the inequality problem. Many countries of the region have increased their social spending significantly in recent years.

Yet, caution needs to be taken in drawing conclusions about how effective social protection has been in addressing inequality. Evidence suggests that there is still much ground for further progress in the design of social protection programmes.

The economic crisis affected the countries of the region in differing degrees. Nevertheless, it is not

In particular, we will examine the links between technology, innovation, and industrial sectors and its implications in areas including employment creation and sustainable development.

ECOSOC's Annual Ministerial Review was established to advance a simple, yet powerful
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indispensable to successful, sustainable development. Today's Regional Meeting will contribute to this sharing of knowledge and to the design of strategies for ensuring sustained, inclusive growth and job creation.

Muchas gracias.