

**Message by H.E. Ambassador Nétor Osorio (Colombia)**

President of ECOSOC

**Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific**

13 March 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

**Honourable Ministers,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished guests,**

It is a pleasure and an honour for me to address the Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, and to convey the warmest greetings on behalf of the Bureau of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

I regret that I have not been able to be with you in Bangkok, but I will be following very closely your debates.

I sincerely thank the G

as well as the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and all other UN partners for co-organizing this meeting.

The Review will bring the spotlight on how to harness the power and potential of science, technology and innovation, as well as culture, to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and promote sustainable development.

This is a crucial matter at a very critical juncture for the future of development.

Mankind is confronted with enormous challenges that require a change in the way we perceive development.

Current growth models have achieved remarkable results in reducing extreme poverty.

But they have also put us on a path of widening inequality between countries, social exclusion, environmental degradation, climate change, and increasing vulnerability to high food and energy prices.

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World leaders acknowledged this simple truth at the

At the core of this discussion is the need to ensure that millions of people living below the poverty line are no longer denied the benefits of global development.

The stakes are high and we cannot afford to fail.

It is our duty to ensure that the Council fulfills its role, as mandated by the Charter;

that it becomes an important part of the solution and an authoritative voice in the formulation of the post-2015 development agenda.

Today, you have the crucial task to address and discuss sustainable development challenges in the Asia and m.316 0 Td nu r-1(e)8(ngga)8(t)-ask

Access to these services is critical for achieving sustainable development.

Energy security continues to challenge policy makers in many countries, especially Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Making modern energy services available to all is hampered by the lack of adequate financial resources and reliable and affordable infrastructure, among other reasons.

Renewable energy technologies offer the possibility to overcome some of these obstacles.

I trust that you will arrive at recommendations that will enable all countries in the region, but especially the poorest, to achieve an appropriate energy mix for their developmental needs.

I look forward to receiving the results of this important meeting during the High Level Segment of ECOSOC in July.

Your deliberations mark an important milestone in the preparations for the Annual Ministerial Review.

Thank you.