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Closing Statement by H.E. Mr. Abulkalam Abdul Momen,
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Vice-President, Economic and Social Council

ECOSOC AMR Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific

Kyoto, Japan
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Honourable Ministers,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me some brief concluding remarks on our meeting today.

Although time has been scarce to address the complex issues before us, our discussions have been fruitful and illuminating. As we wrap up this high-level regional meeting, I would like to thank you once more for attending and active participation. Your engagement here has been invaluable as we prepare for the 2012 ECOSOC Annual Ministerial Review.

On behalf of the ECOSOC President, Ambassador Lazarous Kapambwe, I extend my sincere thanks to the Government of Japan for its generous hospitality.

To all our panellists and presenters I convey a heartfelt appreciation.

I express my special gratitude to the youth representative who shared with us her vivid perspectives on our topic, of particular importance to young women and men all around the globe.

Distinguished guests,

During the last decades, economic performance in Asia and the Pacific region has been impressive with millions of people lifted out of poverty. But this success has also been accompanied by increasing inequality and persistent vulnerability.

Moreover, the ongoing economic crisis puts at stake what has been achieved and causes the most severe harm to those who are least responsible: developing countries and especially the LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

The twin challenge of employment creation and climate change calls for immediate action and poses a particular threat to the many SIDS in the Asia and Pacific Region.

I believe our discussions have underscored that promoting productive capacity, employment and decent work is not only an issue of creating jobs for people to make a living. It is about

achieving an environment of sustainability in which women and men can live their lives in dignity and security, with