

Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

[The minister first thanked the interpreters for their work]

During the conference we have had many interesting contributions. The involvement shows that there is a strong will to make an effort. We have also learned that we have many tools to raise employment among youth. I am sure that we will succeed in bringing youth into employment.

This conference marks the end of the Jobs for Youth project in the OECD, and I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the OECD on the products of the project. I also want to thank the OECD for the preparatory work they have done for this conference, and for the reports that have been produced under the Jobs for Youth project. I am looking forward to the final version of the synthesis report.

Labour markets change over time with the business cycle, changes in trade, technology and the society. With these changes, new problems arise. Therefore, our discussion of labour market problems will continue. However, this must not discourage us from acting today.

I am sure that this conference has been an important step forward in learning from the OECD and each other on how to take necessary steps to employ youth in the short run, and make a better functioning youth labour market.

With these words I hereby close this high-level Forum on Jobs for Youth. I hope you have enjoyed your stay in Oslo, and I wish you a pleasant journey home.