

**Closing statement by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa (Nepal),
Vice-President of the Economic and Social Council, to the
roundtable discussion:**

**Unity in Action: Accelerating SDG Implementation and
Building a Better Future for All**

Wednesday, 11 June 2025
ECOSOC Chamber, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

[Words: 339]

Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As we conclude today's roundtable, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to all our speakers and participants for the clarity, conviction and commitment you have brought to this discussion, under the theme of 'Unity in Action: Accelerating SDG Implementation and Building a Better Future for All'

Underlining the importance of working together for better outcome and impact, today's dialogue has brought forward a number of important messages.

First, we heard how the Economic and Social Council and its vast network of functional commissions and other expert bodies continue to serve as critical platforms for translating multilateral dialogue into meaningful guidance and coordinated action. This ensures that all dimensions of sustainable development are considered in ensuring that no one is left behind.

Second, we were reminded that digital transformations and data governance are not abstract ideas but essential tools to build resilient, inclusive and future-ready societies. But we must do so using rights-based and people-centered approaches.

Third, our discussions emphasized the importance of anchoring our strategies in solidarity, equity and dignity for all, especially when it comes to financing and social protection.

Fourth, strong calls were heard to elevate voices that are often underrepresented – including Indigenous Peoples, women and girls, youth, and vulnerable communities. We must ensure that global efforts reflect the lived realities of everyone, including the Global South.

Finally, we reiterated a common vision that the road ahead demands collaboration, coherence, courage and commitment. Collaboration to enhance synergy across the ecosystem of subsidiary bodies, regional commissions, functional commissions, expert bodies, standing committees and ad hoc bodies. *Coherence* of implementation at all levels. *Courage* to fully realize long-overdue transformations. And *commitment* to delivering results and demonstrating impact on the ground.

The insights shared today will directly inform the discussions at the 2025 High-level political forum on sustainable development, and enrich our collective efforts in the lead-up to key processes such as the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, the Second World Summit for Social Development, and the implementation of the Pact for the Future.

Dear colleagues,

I opened this panel noting the challenging global context and the importance of sustainable development in responding to these realities. 2025 offers us numerous opportunities to let multilateralism rise to the challenge and respond to crisis. Let's use these to discover the change we need to see. ECOSOC is here to support us in that journey.

Thank you.