



**Draft remarks for the President of ECOSOC
From Commitment to Change: Women Driving
the LLDC3 Programme of Action
H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa
Thursday, 7 August 2025, 10:30 – 13:00**

**Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Distinguished guests,**

It is my pleasure to be here with you today to participate in this important discussion.

The rich insights of this panel have clearly illustrated that women are not only integral to our societies but will be the drivers of implementation of the Awaza Programme of Action.

But we cannot expect for women to play this formidable role in our societies without ensuring that they have the foundations and opportunities for productive and prosperous lives and more secured livelihoods.

Women must be able to thrive without discrimination or fear.

They must have access to health care systems for their well-being.

They must be able to attend schools and educational institutions, including for STEM, to keep pace with



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technological advancement and the digitalized economy, and be productive members of society.

They must have access to decent jobs in all sectors, while ensuring that social protection measures are in place.

Women must be in leadership positions, shaping policy, and making decisions on present and future progress.

Gender equality cannot just be an idea- it must be a reality. This is what the call-to-action places front and centre as a priority.

But our work is not done. The full realization of our commitment to gender equality will require a renewed commitment *every single day* to both protect what we have achieved and push forward toward the achievement of goal and targets of SDG 5.

Coordinated efforts at all levels will be needed, and we will rely on collaboration with all stakeholders to ensure our efforts are grounded in the lived realities of women in LLDCs.

Dear colleagues,

At the global level, the Economic and Social Council represents a meaningful and inclusive platform for advancing gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.



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Through its functional commissions and subsidiary bodies, it can provide tailored and targeted guidance.

And its segments, forums and meetings can provide a space for multilateralism and solidarity to do what it does best: find solutions to global challenges when they are most needed.

Throughout Nepal's presidency, ECOSOC's work will be anchored in promoting gender equality with a strong emphasis on equity.

We know that the challenges before us are significant, whether it be climate change, economic uncertainty, food insecurity or conflict. When thinking of the scale of these challenges, it is easy to become overwhelmed.

But I am reminded of the women in our communities, who, even in the face of these challenges, persist with resilience, determination and conviction.

To meet this moment, we must follow their example and hold strong in our belief that sustainable development is achievable, and that gender equality will indeed be our reality.

I thank you all once again and look forward to the interactive discussion.