

**Opening Remarks by
H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa (Nepal),
President of ECOSOC
Ministerial-Level Meeting of the ECOSOC Ad
Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti
23 September 2025 – 3:00 pm – 6:00pm
ECOSOC Chamber**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am honoured to join you today in my capacity as President of the Economic and Social Council.

Haiti is facing a severe crisis, worsened by security, human rights, development and humanitarian challenges as well as institutional instabilities.

These are exacerbated by Haiti's structural vulnerabilities as both a least developed country and a small island developing state.

The international community needs to step up with a comprehensive and coordinated response to support Haiti's efforts toward stability.

The ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, under Ambassador Bob Rae's able leadership, continues to play a key role in following the country's development priorities and mobilizing urgent international support.

Over the last year, the Economic and Social Council has kept close attention on Haiti, including through its special meeting on Haiti's children in December 2024 and its joint meeting with the Peacebuilding Commission in June 2025.

Furthermore, the annual ECOSOC meeting on the transition from relief to development has continued to consider Haiti in its agenda to guide coordinated support at the country level.

Excellencies,

It is unacceptable and concerning that as of today, only 12.7 per cent of the [2025 Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan](#) has been funded.

We must do more to support the commendable efforts of the UN system entities and partners to deliver the much-needed humanitarian response.

Protection and humanitarian needs of Haitian children and young people must be our priority.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, I am committed to supporting the efforts of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti.

Haiti cannot wait.

We cannot be desensitized to the suffering of the Haitian population.

I will encourage this meeting to offer a strong commitment to also give Haiti a priority, regionally and nationally.

Thank you.