



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa
President of the Economic and Social Council
International Day of Non-Violence
'Relevance of Non-Violence and Gandhian
principles for building Sustainable Global Peace'
Thursday, 2 October 2025
CR-8, 3:00 – 4:30 pm**

**Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

It is an honour to join you, in my capacity as the President of the Economic and Social Council, for the commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence.

I thank the Permanent Mission of India for convening this important event to reflect on the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi and the continuing relevance of his principles for building sustainable global peace.

Gandhi reminded us that “*Nonviolence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind.*”¹ This message could not be more timely and it must continue to guide our collective efforts to foster a just and peaceful world.

¹ <https://www.mkgandhi.org/epigrams/n.php>



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Excellencies,

Sustainable development and lasting peace demand equity, compassion, and solidarity.

As President of the Economic and Social Council, I am committed to advancing the Council's role in shaping inclusive, coordinated, and results-driven solutions to address today's challenges, under the motto "Delivering better".

The theme of ECOSOC for this session - *"Transformative, equitable, innovative and coordinated actions for the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs for a sustainable future"* - connects with Gandhian values.

Gandhi's call to live simply, respect nature, and resolve disputes through dialogue is more urgent than ever as we face conflicts, climate disruption, inequalities, and a growing trust deficit.

Excellencies,

As we commemorate this Day, let us reaffirm our faith in the power of multilateralism to confront our common challenges, particularly as the United Nations approaches its 80th anniversary.



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In times of overlapping crises, we must choose dialogue over division, and cooperation over confrontation.

Gandhi also said that “*Nonviolence is not a weapon of the weak. It is a weapon of the strongest and the bravest.*”² In that spirit, our strength lies in unity, solidarity, and action.

On this day, let us honour Mahatma Gandhi by ensuring that our pursuit of peace and dignity is inseparable from our pursuit of sustainable development - leaving no one behind and building a better future for generations to come.

Thank you.

² <https://www.mkgandhi.org/epigrams/n.php>