



**Opening Statement for the President of
ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa
53rd session of the Committee on World Food
Security
20 October 2025
[video-message]**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Dear colleagues,**

It is an honor to address the 53rd session of the Committee on World Food Security.

I sincerely regret not being able to join you in person today.

This year's theme – *“Making a Difference in Food Security and Nutrition”* captures both the urgency and the opportunity before us.

Despite our collective efforts, around 2.3 billion people remain moderately or severely food insecure and hundreds of millions of children and women continue to suffer from malnutrition.

Although global food commodity prices have eased, they remain above pre-pandemic levels, while climate change,



biodiversity loss and land degradation continue to threaten agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

In 2023, public spending on agriculture reached a record high of \$701 billion, yet this accounted for only about 2 per cent of total government spending.

Excellencies,

We know what must be done.

We must empower young people through training, decent jobs and opportunities across farming and food-related businesses.

We must ensure women's equal access to land, markets, credit, digital tools and decision-making.

We must promote comprehensive nutrition policies that enable healthy diets and better health outcomes.

We must mobilize adequate and predictable financing for food security, nutrition and agrifood systems - especially in least developed, landlocked and small island developing States, and in fragile contexts, where fiscal space is limited and food insecurity most acute.



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And we need more and better climate finance to build resilient agrifood systems, including by scaling up private investment.

**Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,**

Encouragingly, the 2025 HLPF Ministerial Declaration reaffirmed collective commitment to end hunger, strengthen food security and nutrition, and promote sustainable development.

Ministers underscored the importance of sustainable, resilient and inclusive food systems in ensuring healthy diets and achieving sustainable development.

They also recognized the interlinkages between climate action, biodiversity, ecosystems, land restoration and the transformation of agrifood systems - themes highly relevant to the work of CFS 53.

As President of ECOSOC, I will continue to ensure that the deliberations and policy products of the CFS inform the broader work of the Council.

As we mark the 80th anniversary of ECOSOC, let us use this moment to strengthen our resolve to deliver for our countries and communities.



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ECOSOC remains committed to working with Member States, the UN system - including the Rome-based agencies – civil society, youth, the private sectors and all partners to advance sustainable, resilience and inclusive agrifood systems.

Together, we can make a difference in achieving zero hunger and ensuring that no one is left behind.

Thank you.