



**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, President of
the Economic and Social Council**

**Briefing to the Informal Ad Hoc Working Group on the
Mandate Implementation Review**

**25 November 2025, 10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
CR-1**

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

Excellencies,

Thank you for inviting me to join you today.

It is always a pleasure to talk about the ECOSOC's mandate which is firmly rooted in the United Nations Charter, entrusting the Council with responsibilities to promote international cooperation on economic, social, cultural, educational, health and related issues.

ECOSOC serves as a platform for dialogue and policy-making, coordinating the UN development system and engaging diverse stakeholders. ECOSOC approaches the review stage of the mandate life cycle through a range of legislative and oversight functions derived from the UN Charter, GA resolutions, and outcomes of UN conferences and summits.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, ECOSOC has focused on coherence across the UN system to support Member States in meeting global commitments.

The High-level Political Forum, convened annually under its auspices, is the central platform to review SDG progress, share lessons, and adopt a ministerial declaration.

Beyond the HLPF, ECOSOC holds annual forums on financing for development, partnerships, youth, and science, technology and innovation, adopting resolutions and recommendations across its programme of work. It also responds to urgent global issues through special meetings that inform its broader sessions

Excellencies,



Beyond its own annual work programme, the Council is also entrusted to oversee the work of 5 regional commissions, 8 functional commissions, 9 expert committees, 2 standing committees and a range of other bodies that report to it.

These subsidiary bodies address a wide range of sustainable development issues, from statistics and crime prevention to science and technology, forests, population, gender equality, Indigenous Peoples' issues, as well as the needs of least developed countries.

The subsidiary bodies regularly report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the Council's Coordination Segment.

The Council periodically reviews their work, mainly during its Management Segment, on the basis of the recommendations contained in the reports of its subsidiary bodies as well as provides guidance, based on current trends and needs, on their future work.

For instance, during its 2025 session, ECOSOC adopted 35 resolutions and 45 decisions (not including those related to elections), mostly during its management segment.

The Council discharges its Charter-mandated coordination function by reviewing the work undertaken by the UN system on sustainable development issues across the economic, social, health and related fields with a view to promoting coordinated action and advancing long-term solutions.

Excellencies,

In recent years, there have been efforts to streamline mandates.

For instance, the ECOSOC Vice-President (Costa Rica) at the 2025 session issued a "Call to Action" for the Humanitarian Affairs Segment, instead of negotiating a resolution.

Streamlining mandates also includes avoiding the introduction of new mandates unless accompanied by commensurate resources or by the clear adjustment or conclusion of existing, overlapping obligations.

There are also lessons learned from recent experiences, particularly regarding the process of adoption of the Ministerial Declaration at both HLPF and ECOSOC.



The 2024 Ministerial Declaration illustrated challenges due to procedural arrangements and the potential conflicts caused by the different voting rights at ECOSOC and the HLPF.

Member States may wish to address this situation during the forthcoming GA review of ECOSOC and the HLPF.

Excellencies,

The General Assembly periodically reviews ECOSOC's work and the provisions governing the HLPF.

In its resolution 78/285, the General Assembly agreed to fully review at its 80th session the arrangements of the ECOSOC and the HLPF.

These reviews will be conducted jointly, building on lessons learned to ensure alignment with the broader 2030 Agenda follow-up processes.

Following GA resolution 75/290 A, ECOSOC launched an internal review of its subsidiary bodies. Facilitated by the Council's Vice-President responsible for the Management Segment in 2022, the process included assessments and recommendations by the Bureaux of ECOSOC functional commissions and expert bodies and informal consultations among Member States. This process resulted in ECOSOC decision 2022/334, inviting implementation of the recommendations contained in the Vice-President's summary.

Furthermore, a number of ECOSOC functional commissions also conduct periodic reviews of their own working methods.

The next review of ECOSOC's subsidiary bodies, initially mandated for 2026, is proposed to be postponed to 2027 to allow the process to be informed by the outcomes of the GA review processes.

In line with the Pact for the Future, ECOSOC launched an intergovernmental process in 2025 to explore options to revitalize the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Co-facilitated by Ireland and St Kitts and Nevis, the process concluded with the adoption of ECOSOC resolution on "Revitalization of the CSW" (E/RES/2026/2)", reaffirming CSW's role in follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and its outcome.

Efforts have also been made to foster more effective complementarity between the General Assembly and ECOSOC, with the QCPR as an example of the two



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bodies identifying complementary roles, namely a policy-making one for the GA every four years, and annual oversight of implementation and guidance by Member States to the UN development system and funding compact, housed under ECOSOC in its Operational Activities for Development Segment.

Regular dialogues between the Presidents of the GA and ECOSOC help ensure coherence, including monthly meetings and an annual joint briefing to identify shared and important issues of relevance to Member States.

Excellencies,

Regarding the voluntary national reviews (VNRs), the 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to undertake regular and inclusive reviews of progress at national and subnational levels. These reviews are intended to be voluntary, country-led, and country-driven, presented at the HLPF under the auspices of ECOSOC.

Since 2015, 402 VNRs have been presented by 190 countries and the European Union, with 148 countries submitting two or more reviews.

GA resolution 75/290B suggested improvements to the VNRs, encouraging countries to highlight challenges, gaps, and next steps to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs and to conduct a VNR once during the four-year cycle of the HLPF.

Nonetheless, certain challenges in the VNR process continue to be observed, and addressing them could further strengthen the mechanism's effectiveness and impact.

Excellencies,

The integrated nature of the 2030 Agenda requires close cooperation across intergovernmental bodies.

The upcoming ECOSOC and HLPF review by the General Assembly is an opportunity to reflect on the Council's work and enhance the complementarity between ECOSOC and the HLPF to ensure that their work is mutually reinforcing and accelerates the 2030 Agenda's implementation.

Streamlining and strengthening the mandate life cycle will be essential to achieving this objective and to fully leveraging the Council's role.



Taken together, the UN80 Initiative, the General Assembly review of ECOSOC and HLPF at its 80th session, and the ECOSOC's review of its subsidiary machinery create opportunities for Member States to strengthen the functions, coherence, and impact of ECOSOC and the HLPF in advancing the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

Thank you.