



ECOSOC



Building
Our Future
Together

**Opening remarks for the President of
ECOSOC
Second World Summit for Social
Development
Solution Session: Structural
Approaches to Social Development –
Leadership Initiatives
for Women and Girls
Doha, Qatar
4 November 2025**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Dear colleagues**

First, allow me to begin by thanking the Global Forum of Communities Discriminated on Work and Decent and UN Women for convening this



important conversation and for your kind invitation to join you today.

The current global challenges compel us to act with unity, solidarity, and decisive resolve to advance effective solutions where every person has an equal stake in prosperity.

Coming from Nepal, an LDC and LLDC, I have seen first-hand how effective social development policies are in having a visible and positive impact on society, the economy, and the environment when opportunities are secured for the full participation and contribution of women and girls.

This is why, as President of the ECOSOC and Social Council, I have chosen key priorities on which to advance transformative and inclusive policy guidance.

My priorities are designed to speak to the needs of the most vulnerable countries and communities as



well as spotlight innovative ideas to create tangible change.

These include: (i) food security and agriculture; (ii) youth entrepreneurship and digital technologies; (iii) climate adaptation with a focus on glacier lake outburst floods in the mountain regions; and (iv) financing for development.

The issues of gender equality and countries in special situations including LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and African countries will serve as cross-cutting themes.

To advance these priorities, we must:

1. Recognize that gender-responsive policies are not optional — they are essential to advance social development.
2. Embed gender perspectives into all stages of policy design and implementation to foster equitable societies and ensure that Communities



Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD) are not left behind.

3. Create inclusive platforms that amplify the voices of marginalized communities to enable them to shape decisions that affect their lives.
4. Promote global dialogues on equitable development, equality, inclusion, and social justice, to strengthen collective action and inspire transformative change.

This is where ECOSOC's role remains crucial.

Excellencies,

We will be commemorating the 80th anniversary of ECOSOC in January 2026. This will be a unique opportunity to spotlight the agility and responsiveness of ECOSOC to the needs of the most vulnerable and to embrace more vigorously the principle of leaving no one behind.



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Let us commit today to build policies that do not just promise inclusion but deliver it. Let us ensure that every voice — especially those of the most marginalized — is heard, respected, and empowered.

Together, we can transform commitments into realities and create a future where equality, dignity, and social justice are not aspirations but lived experiences for all.

I invite you to engage in and contribute to the work of the ECOSOC, as it is your platform for inclusive dialogue.

Thank you.