

**Opening remarks of the President of
ECOSOC**

H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa

**Second World Summit Social
Development Solutions Event: Boosting
Domestic Public Resources to Finance
Social Development – Harnessing
Momentum of the Sevilla Commitment**

**Room 8, Doha, Qatar, 5 November
2025, 11:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**

Excellencies, friends and colleagues,

Thank you for gathering for this Solutions Event
– a place where commitment must meet courage.

As President of ECOSOC, I have the privilege – and the responsibility – of helping turn the words we adopt here into action that changes lives.

I also speak as someone whose own country, Nepal, has seen what's possible when social development becomes a national priority.

Over the past five years, we have expanded the child grant, extended the coverage of contributory social security beyond the formal sector, and built an Integrated National Social Protection Framework.

These are not just policies – they are promises kept to people who, for too long, were told to wait.

As co-facilitator of the Sevilla Commitment, I had the honor to work together with the Ambassadors of Mexico, Norway and Zambia to forge a renewed pact – one that puts fairness, inclusion, and humanity back at the heart of public finance.

The Sevilla Commitment is about more than numbers; it is about trust.

It asks governments to foster fiscal systems that are progressive, transparent, and accountable, so that contributions reflect the ability to pay.

It encourages countries to integrate the financing of social protection floors and policies into their national plans and strategies, and pledges support to developing countries that aim to increase social protection coverage by at least two percentage points annually.

That is what solidarity looks like when it takes measurable form.

To make these investments real, the Sevilla Commitment calls on countries to strengthen their own tax systems – making them fairer, simpler and more efficient.

That means modern tax administrations, easier registration, fair taxation of natural resources and a broader base so everyone contributes their share.

But Sevilla also reminds us that no country can do this alone.

We need stronger international tax cooperation, with rules that reflect the needs and capacities of all nations.

Only when we coordinate globally, we can stop the losses from tax avoidance and evasion that drain resources meant for schools, hospitals, and decent jobs.

This vision echoes the Doha Political Declaration, which reaffirms that mobilizing domestic resources is central to sustainable development and to ending poverty in all its forms.

Excellencies,

Fiscal justice is social justice.

When countries raise and spend resources fairly and wisely, they build hope – the kind that can't be borrowed or deferred.

This year, I intend to use ECOSOC's full capacity to drive this agenda forward – through the Commission on Social Development in February, the Special Meetings on Tax and Financial Integrity in March and May, and the Financing for Development Forum in April, where we will take stock of what has truly been done.

Let us make sure that Sevilla's words and Doha's principles live not only in documents but in classrooms, clinics and communities.

Let us turn commitment into consequence – and
financing into human dignity.

Thank you.