

**Opening Statement of the President of ECOSOC
H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa
Second World Summit for Social Development
(WSSD2), Solution Event: Impact of Labour Migration
on Social Development—Challenges and Good
Practices**

**Thursday 6 November 2025, 11:30 am,
Qatar National Convention Centre, Doha, Qatar**

**Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Colleagues and friends,**

I am honoured to join you today at this important gathering, co-organized by Spain, the International Labor Organization and the International Trade Union Confederation.

This event comes at an opportune moment, as the world seeks to harness the transformative potential of labour migration for sustainable development.

Labour migration is more than a demographic trend.

It is a **deeply human story** - of aspiration, courage and resilience.

Every migrant worker carries not only their skills, but also their hopes for a better future. Together, they enrich the social and economic fabric of the global community.

Today, we see more workers from the Global South moving to fill labour shortages in economies facing population aging.

This evolving landscape of mobility reflects both opportunity and responsibility.

When managed well, migration is a powerful driver of development.

Each year, **migrants sent home over \$600 billion in remittances** – funds that sustain education, health and livelihoods.

These flows are lifelines for millions of families and one of the more stable sources of finance in low- and middle-income countries, often more resilient than foreign aid.

At the 2025 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, the international community reaffirmed that

migrants must not be left behind in advancing the 2030 Agenda.

Its Political Declaration called for upholding the **human rights and dignity** of all migrants, ensuring their access to essential services to health care, education and decent work, and improving data disaggregated by migratory status to make policies more inclusive and evidence-based.

The Declaration also recognized the growing influence of climate change on migration patterns and urged integrated approaches that address root causes and **support climate-resilient livelihoods**.

Likewise, the 2024 **ECOSOC Special Meeting on the Future of Work** reaffirmed that migration is central to sustainable development.

Excellencies, Colleagues,

We must look beyond the movement of workers – and see the movement of humanity.

Let us work together to ensure that migrants everywhere are **not only protected but empowered** – contributing to societies that are more inclusive, resilient and just.

Thank you.
