



## Informal Note of the President of ECOSOC, H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur Thapa, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations

28 January 2026



On 27 January 2026, I had the honor of chairing the ECOSOC Partnership Forum, the first major meeting of the 2026 ECOSOC cycle. The Forum brought together Member States, the United Nations system, civil society, the private sector, youth and other stakeholders to reflect on how partnerships can deliver better – by turning commitments into visible results for people and communities. A joint analytical summary of the Partnership Forum and the Coordination Segment will be prepared in consultation with the Bureau. Through this informal note, I would like to share a few personal reflections.

### *Delivering better through partnerships*

The discussions made clear that, as global pressure continues to mount, partnerships must move past declarations and towards concrete delivery. With limited fiscal space, rising debt burdens and widening inequalities, partnerships are essential to use scarce resources more effectively, overcome fragmentation, build trust and extend support to contexts no single actor can reach alone, while sustaining impact beyond short-term gains. Participants emphasized that delivering better requires a stronger focus on evidence-based and scalable approaches and more systematic follow-up across the ECOSOC cycle, aligned with other intergovernmental processes and grounded in clear roles and accountability.

### *Listening to those closest to the ground*

The Forum reaffirmed the value of demand-driven partnerships on equal footing. Contributions across various stakeholders underscored that sustainable solutions are strongest when shaped by those directly affected. Effective partnerships begin with listening – and with sharing power, responsibility and benefits more fairly. Progress must be measured not by global averages, but by the lives of those furthest behind. Partnerships should be defined not by form, but by function.

### *From ideas to impact*

Discussions highlighted the partnerships that deliver results. Examples shared during the Forum reflected a wide range of partnership models, from global and regional platforms and pooled financing mechanisms, to national dialogue platforms, sub-national collaborations, public-private partnerships, and community-led initiatives. Together, these experiences reinforced a simple truth: partnerships hold the key to translating ambition into action at scale. The Partnership Snapshot released by UN DESA provides a concise and informative list of these partnership examples.

### *Delivering better where needs are greatest*

The principle of leaving no one behind remains a central priority of my presidency. Particular attention must be given to the needs and circumstances of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and other countries in special situations, where fiscal constraints and structural vulnerabilities are most acute. Delivering better through partnerships means ensuring that efforts are responsive to these realities, aligned around country and local priorities and capable of reaching those furthest behind first.

### *Carrying momentum forward*

Insights from the Partnership Forum will feed into the 2026 ECOSOC Coordination Segment and inform the work of ECOSOC and its subsidiary bodies throughout the year. They will also contribute to the mandated review of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum, as well as Member States' deliberations on the UN80 initiative. As President of ECOSOC, I will carry forward the spirit of the Partnership Forum across the Council's work, keeping delivery front and center. Delivering better rebuilds trust in partnerships – and makes sustainable development real for people, everywhere.