



**Statement by H.E. Mr. Lok Bahadur
Thapa, Ambassador/Permanent
Representative of Nepal to the
United Nations and
The Leader of the Nepali Delegation
at
The General Debate of the 80th Session
of the United Nations General
Assembly**

New York, 26 September 2025

Theme: ‘Better Together: 80 Years and More
for Peace, Development and Human Rights’

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my honor to address this august Assembly.

At the outset, allow me to extend warm greetings from Nepal, the land of Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest), the highest mountain in the world, and the birthplace of Lord Buddha, the apostle of peace and compassion.

I congratulate Her Excellency Annalena Baerbock on her election as the President of the 80th Session of the General Assembly. I assure her of Nepal's full support.

I also extend our appreciation to Secretary-General António Guterres for his steadfast leadership in these challenging times.

Madam President,

First, let me share about the recent political developments in Nepal.

Earlier this month, Nepali youth, particularly Gen-Z, took to the streets with a clear and compelling voice for change.

Their call was not for narrow interests, but for a nation built on the pillars of good governance—transparent, accountable, and responsive to the people.

They demanded efficient public service, an end to corruption, an equitable society, justice for all, and dignified job opportunities for the youth.

It was a resounding reminder that the aspirations of this generation are nothing less than a fair, just, and prosperous Nepal.

In the Gen-Z movement, we saw unfortunate violence that claimed lives and left deep scars in our society.

Many government buildings were reduced to ashes.

An interim government has been formed to steer Nepal's political direction at this critical moment.

For the first time in Nepal's history, Nepal is led by a woman as Prime Minister- herself a former Chief Justice.

General elections have been slated for the 5th of March 2026.

This will mark another step in strengthening our democracy through fresh mandates of the sovereign people.

Rebuilding our institutions, restoring trust, and healing our society will take time, resources, and solidarity.

Truly, Nepal stands at a historical crossroads.

And we know that the only viable road ahead of us is that of the road to peace, democracy, and inclusive development.

We are determined to continue our democratic journey.

And we appreciate goodwill and continued support from the international community as we move forward in this direction.

Madam President,

The world itself stands at a crossroads.

Peace is in peril.

Militarization is mounting.

Development is drifting

And the climate crisis is culminating.

We have seen commitments unmet and promises unkept.

In this context, the theme of this Session– “Better Together: 80 Years and More for Peace, Development and Human Rights” –could not be more relevant.

Madam President,

For 80 years, the United Nations has served as a common foundation for multilateralism.

A foundation upon which all nations— big and small, developed and developing— stand equal and forge common solutions.

For 80 years, our organization has remained a beacon of hope—

- Hope for peace.

- Hope for shared prosperity.

- Hope for equity, justice, freedom, and human rights.

- And, hope for the rules-based international order.

And today, as crises converge— from climate catastrophe to widening inequality, from digital disruption to violent conflicts— that beacon must shine brighter than ever.

It is time to renew our collective resolve to fortify the founding values of the United Nations.

Madam President,

Nepal attaches profound and enduring value to the United Nations.

The UN Charter is a bedrock of our foreign policy.

It is a compass that guides our action on the global stage.

This reflects Nepal's enduring belief in multilateralism, international cooperation, and global solidarity—principles that define who we are as a nation.

This year marks 70 years since Nepal joined the United Nations.

For seven decades, Nepal has consistently stood by the United Nations:

—Contributing to global peace and stability,

- Advocating for a rules-based international order,
- Promoting equitable and sustainable economic development, particularly for the upliftment of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs), and
- Upholding human dignity and justice.

Today, Nepal proudly stands as the largest troop-contributing country.

Our highly professional peacekeepers serve with a deep sense of duty to secure peace and stability in the conflict-ridden parts of the world.

Nepal remains a steadfast advocate for complete and general disarmament.

The lasting peace and a safer world depend on the reduction of all weapons, conventional and emerging alike.

Nepal strongly condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

We stand for peace, security, and the protection of innocent lives everywhere.

As the Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Least Developed Countries, Nepal is leading the group to ensure equitable, inclusive, and sustainable development guided by the spirit of no one is left behind.

As Co-Facilitator of the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Seville, Spain, Nepal contributed to advancing key priorities:

- Catalyzing investments for sustainable development,
- Addressing the debt crisis,
- Reforming the international financial architecture, and
- Revitalizing multilateral cooperation.

Nepal is deeply honored to serve as the President of the Economic and Social Council this session.

We thank the Member States for their trust.

As the President of the ECOSOC, I am deeply committed, under the motto of ‘Delivering Better’, to bring coherence, credibility, and measurable impact to the Council’s work.

As a member of the UN Peacebuilding Commission, Nepal is deeply committed to supporting inclusive, nationally owned, and locally driven peacebuilding processes.

Madam President,

The world today faces challenges of profound gravity and urgency.

Many parts of the world are witnessing protracted crises.

War is raging relentlessly in Ukraine.

Suffering is deepening in Gaza, where civilians bear the heaviest toll.

We support a two-state solution, where Israel and Palestine coexist peacefully and securely within internationally recognized borders in line with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

Nepal is deeply concerned about the innocent civilians held hostage by Hamas.

We call for the immediate release of Bipin Joshi, a Nepali student, who has been held hostage by Hamas since October 7, 2023.

Crises in Sudan, the Sahel, and beyond have left millions displaced, hungry, and vulnerable.

The architecture of global peace has been under severe pressure unseen since the Second World War.

Institutions designed to prevent conflict and uphold human dignity are tested as never before.

It is frustrating that the defence budget is skyrocketing while development cooperation is shrinking.

Global military spending has reached unprecedented levels -2.7 trillion US dollars in 2024, the highest since the Cold War.

We have witnessed gross violations of human rights in various parts of the world.

Children and the most vulnerable are caught in the crossfire.

Climate-driven disasters are compounding human suffering:

- Deepening vulnerabilities,
- Displacing communities, and
- Straining already fragile systems.

The very institutions we built to confront these global challenges are under immense strain.

Confidence in multilateral frameworks is weakening.

This is a clear and urgent call

- To reassess, strengthen, and revitalize our multilateral institutions, and
- To fortify global solidarity and action.

Madam President,

Let me highlight a few areas that deserve urgent global attention.

First, peace and security.

Beyond words, peace demands action.

It demands courage.

And, it demands commitment.

In these turbulent times, dialogue must triumph over hostility, diplomacy over conflict, and cooperation over division.

We must take urgent and coordinated actions to prevent conflict, uphold justice, and foster inclusive development.

It is incumbent upon us to address the root causes of conflicts, including poverty, inequality, and marginalization.

Second, we must strengthen multilateralism and rebuild trust.

Multilateral institutions must deliver.

Not just promises, but results.

They must be representative, transparent, and accountable.

In this interdependent world, no single nation – however rich and powerful – can resolve global problems alone.

We must uphold multilateralism for fostering global cooperation and coordination.

We must repose our trust in multilateralism, anchored in sovereign equality, territorial integrity, and national independence.

Third, accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is critical.

As the progress on the Sustainable Development Goals is far off track, the world must act with greater urgency and solidarity.

We strongly call for the timely and effective implementation of the Compromiso de Sevilla.

Sustainable investment must be boosted to deliver on our promises.

Development assistance is critical for making progress in sustainable development.

We appreciate the developed countries that meet the ODA target and strongly urge others to fulfill the commitment.

We must make development finance adequate, easily accessible, predictable, and aligned with national priorities.

Institutional and human capacity-building support tailored to the needs and priorities of the countries, particularly in the Global South, should be prioritized.

We must reform trade systems to be fair, inclusive, and responsive to developing countries.

It is incumbent upon us to address the debt burdens facing many developing countries.

Debt relief, including debt structuring and debt swaps, should be scaled up to ease debt distress.

Priority should be given to inclusive development.

We must invest in youth and promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls.

The rights, safety, and dignity of migrant workers must be fully respected and protected.

Fourth, climate justice and climate action.

Climate change has disproportionately affected vulnerable populations, such as low-income communities and developing nations.

Nepal is deeply concerned about the disproportionate impact of climate change, particularly in the mountain regions.

We have firsthand experience of glaciers melting in our Himalayas that are seriously threatening the lives and livelihoods of millions downstream.

To discuss the climate crisis and chart out the way forward, we convened the Sagarmatha Sambaad (Mt. Everest Dialogue) in May this year under the theme 'Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity'.

The Sambaad adopted the *Sagarmatha Call for Action*, reaffirming our shared commitment to the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda.

Nepal is proud to be among the few countries to have submitted our third Nationally Determined Contribution—NDC3.

By 2035, we aim to reduce emissions by nearly 27% and expand renewable energy eightfold.

Excellencies, as the world confronts a climate catastrophe, we must act with urgency and resolve.

This is not just a crisis of emissions—it is a crisis of equity, of survival, of justice.

Nepal calls for urgent, fair, and ambitious action to protect vulnerable communities.

Polluters must take responsibility with actions.

We reiterate our call for scaled-up, predictable and accessible climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building for countries on the frontline—particularly the Least Developed Countries and mountainous nations.

The Loss and Damage Fund must be capitalized, and biodiversity finance must be increased to match the scale of the crisis.

Nepal urges the international community—especially developed countries—to demonstrate genuine solidarity and moral clarity by delivering on the ICJ Advisory Opinion and upholding their obligations to protect the climate system.

Fifth, digital transformation.

Technology must be inclusive, secure, and rights-based.

We must narrow the digital divide within and among countries to create a peaceful and equitable society.

Nepal advocates for a global digital cooperation framework that ensures access to infrastructure, digital literacy, and data protection for all.

Technology transfer must be accelerated and scaled up.

Finally, the United Nations must be reformed to reflect present-day realities.

Focus should be laid on coherence, coordination, and accountability across the UN development system.

We need to prioritize LDCs and LLDCs across all global commitments and partnerships.

The UN80 initiative offers a timely opportunity to renew our collective commitment to a more inclusive, transparent, and effective multilateral system.

Nepal supports the reform of the United Nations Security Council to make it more representative, transparent, and accountable.

The review of ECOSOC and the High-Level Political Forum this year presents an important moment to enhance their effectiveness, coherence, and impact in delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Similarly, Nepal supports the ongoing Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR).

This is an opportunity to enhance synergy, streamline efforts, and drive results where they matter most.

We also underline that the global financial architecture must meet today's realities.

Madam President,

The global community has, time and again, reaffirmed its determination to tackle challenges before us.

And, we have shown that we can achieve more—

- When we act in genuine partnership,

- When we choose collaboration over confrontation,

- When we replace disagreements with dialogue,

- And when we are truly committed to peace, prosperity, and a sustainable future.

**Madam President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates**

For eight decades, the United Nations has stood as a beacon of hope for peace, for justice, for human rights, and for development.

Today, that legacy calls upon us more urgently than ever.

The world watches us at a moment of great trial.

Let us stand together, united and determined, to ensure enduring peace and prosperity in the world.

When the United Nations succeeds, humanity as a whole succeeds.

When it falters, it is the innocent and the vulnerable who bear the heaviest cost.

Let this 80th anniversary remind us of our shared duty:

To safeguard peace

To uphold justice

To protect human dignity, and

To build a world that is fairer, safer, and more humane for all.

Nepal stands firmly committed to doing its part in shaping a safer, more prosperous, and more sustainable world.

I thank you.