

**Statement by HE Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of
Nepal to the United Nations
at High Level Conversation on
‘Multilateralism after COVID 19: What kind of UN do we need at the 75th
anniversary’
ECOSOC High-Level Segment
17 July 2020**

Madam President,

I thank you for convening this timely meeting on multilateralism after COVID-19.

The HLPF 2020, which concluded yesterday, has delivered a strong call for stronger multilateralism to respond to the three imperatives – containing the disruption of COVID-19, accelerating resilient recovery, and achieving sustainable development.

Even before the onset of the COVID-19, multilateralism was being questioned. The trust deficit was widening. Unilateralist tendencies were increasing.

The pandemic has come as a stark reminder of the paramount role of multilateralism in addressing the global challenges that threaten the very future of humanity.

Being the most inclusive body, the United Nations stands as the beacon of multilateralism. As we commemorate the 75th anniversary of the organisation, the challenges we are facing are epochal.

Therefore, beyond the voice of despairs, the moment today calls for the kindling of hope and ignition of imagination –for better future.

The current realities demand more trust and faith in the principles of the UN Charter, and for stronger political will towards more inclusive multilateralism with the United Nations at its center.

Madam President,

The United Nations remains a prisoner of the past. Some of its structures have failed to cope with the changing world. Only timely reforms prove the relevance of the United Nations. And the true success of the reform initiatives can be gauged

only based on impacts made on the most vulnerable people and the neediest countries such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

It is equally important to level-up the playing field for developing countries.

In the development pillar, the fulcrum of our action should be the sustainable development goals with all stakeholders and partners shouldering the common responsibility. We the member states must enable the United Nations to focus on delivering on the ground and reach the furthest behind first.

As a charter-body on socio-economic affairs, ECOSOC has even bigger responsibility to realize the decade of action and delivery and achieve sustainable development goals. ECOSOC should also contribute to the deliberation and governance of emerging issues.

The United Nations must be at the forefront of setting the norms for fair and just international order and enabling the vulnerable to ensure that no one is left behind.

To conclude, Madam President, let me reiterate Nepal's unwavering commitment in multilateralism. The United Nations, with 75 years of experience behind it, needs to become a lodestar for delivery and results, beyond the umpteen deliberations and resolutions.

I thank you.