

**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dhan Bahadur Oli  
Ambassador of Nepal to the Kingdom of Thailand  
at the Second World Summit on Sustainable Health and Well-being  
Bangkok, 25 September 2026**

Excellencies,

Hon. Ministers and Ambassadors,

Representatives of the United Nations and ESCAP,

Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honour to join you at the Second World Summit on Sustainable Health and Well-being here in Bangkok.

I thank the organizers, the United Nations system, ESCAP and all partners for bringing us together around a fundamental question: **how can we ensure health and well-being for all in a sustainable and equitable manner?**

For Nepal, this discussion is particularly important.

We believe that health is not simply an outcome of development; **it is a foundation of development itself.** Healthy populations are essential for productive communities, resilient economies, inclusive societies and sustainable development. This is why SDG 3—Good Health and Well-being—is inseparable from the wider 2030 Agenda.

Health depends not only on hospitals and doctors. It is shaped by poverty, nutrition, gender equality, water and sanitation, the environment, climate, cities, infrastructure and access to technology. Achieving SDG 3 therefore requires progress across the Goals.

**Excellencies,**

Poverty and poor health reinforce one another. Families with limited resources often face barriers to healthcare, nutritious food and safe living conditions, while illness and healthcare costs can deepen financial hardship.

Universal Health Coverage means ensuring that people receive the health services they need without financial hardship. Nepal has placed UHC and

stronger primary healthcare at the centre of its health agenda, with particular attention to reaching people in remote and geographically challenging areas.

Nutrition is equally fundamental. Malnutrition, food insecurity and unhealthy diets affect people's ability to learn, work and live healthy lives. Investment in nutrition is an investment in human capital. SDG 2 and SDG 3 must therefore advance together through stronger food systems, agriculture, education and social protection.

Gender equality is another essential pillar. Women and girls must have equitable access to healthcare, nutrition, information and reproductive health services. The same commitment must extend to young people, persons with disabilities, older persons and communities facing barriers to essential services.

Safe water, sanitation and hygiene are also fundamental to health and human dignity. Progress on SDG 6 is therefore directly linked to SDG 3. Sustainable health requires not only effective healthcare, but also clean air, safe water, proper sanitation, waste management and healthy living environments.

### **Distinguished delegates,**

Climate change is increasingly a health issue.

Extreme weather, floods, droughts, changing disease patterns, food insecurity and damage to critical infrastructure can rapidly become health emergencies.

The recent Bhote Koshi–Rasuwa flash flood in Nepal demonstrated this clearly. Loss of lives and livelihoods, damage to roads, bridges and health facilities, and disruption of essential services showed how quickly a natural hazard can affect health and human dignity.

For Nepal, this reinforces the need for climate-resilient health infrastructure, early-warning systems, disaster preparedness and community-based response. Climate action under SDG 13 and disaster risk reduction must therefore be seen as investments in health and the well-being of future generations.

At the same time, sustainable cities under SDG 11 must place health at the centre of urban planning, with cleaner air, safer housing and public spaces, opportunities for physical activity and equitable access to essential services.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Innovation offers significant opportunities. Digital health, telemedicine, health information systems, data science and artificial intelligence can expand access and improve decision-making, particularly for countries such as Nepal with challenging geography.

But innovation must be inclusive, ethical, affordable and people-centred. **The digital divide must not become a health divide.** Investment in infrastructure, connectivity, research and human capacity is essential to ensure that technology benefits those who need it most.

None of these challenges can be addressed by one country or institution alone. SDG 17—Partnerships for the Goals—is therefore critical.

We need stronger cooperation among governments, the United Nations, development partners, international financial institutions, academia, the private sector, civil society and communities. Regional cooperation is equally important, as pandemics, climate-related disasters, air pollution and antimicrobial resistance do not respect borders.

Nepal stands ready to share its experiences, learn from partners and contribute to regional efforts to build resilient and equitable health systems.

### **Excellencies,**

Nepal is strengthening primary healthcare, Universal Health Coverage, digital innovation, human-resource development and community health services. These efforts reflect a simple principle: **sustainable health is not only about treating disease; it is about creating the conditions in which people can remain healthy throughout their lives.**

For Nepal, this means reaching the last mile, strengthening communities, protecting people from financial hardship, investing in health workers, using technology responsibly and preparing for climate and health emergencies.

Above all, it means ensuring that no one is excluded because of where they live, their economic circumstances, gender, age or other barriers.

As we gather at this Summit, let me emphasize three principles:

**First, health must be at the centre of sustainable development.** Economic, social and environmental progress must ultimately improve people's quality of life.

**Second, prevention must stand alongside treatment.** Addressing the social and environmental determinants of health is essential to building sustainable health systems.

**Third, equity must remain at the heart of our efforts.** A health system is not sustainable if its benefits reach only those who can afford them or those who live near major centres. Our commitment must be to health for all, leaving no one behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Sustainable Development Goals are interconnected. Poverty, nutrition, gender equality, water and sanitation, climate, cities and innovation all affect health, while partnerships make progress possible.

SDG 3 is therefore not a stand-alone goal. It is part of a broader vision of societies where people can live with dignity, security and opportunity.

Let us strengthen health systems that are resilient, inclusive, affordable, innovative and people-centred. Let us invest in health workers, empower communities, listen to young people, strengthen regional cooperation and ensure that today's development does not compromise the well-being of future generations.

Nepal remains committed to working with all partners towards this shared vision.

**Together, let us turn the ambition of SDG 3 into practical action and build societies where every person has the opportunity not merely to survive, but to live a healthy, dignified and fulfilling life.**