

Statement by Lesotho

Thank you Mr. Chairman, may I thank the Panelists for this morning and afternoon for the informative presentations. The Lesotho delegation would like to share with the session experiences in renewable energy.

The generally mountainous terrain and dispersed settlements place renewable energies on a competitive advantage over other energy carriers.

Renewable energies have been used in a wide spectrum of applications for many years. Specifically, solar (photovoltaic) energy has continued to play a central role in village water pumping in the rural areas.

Accelerated expansion of renewable energy presents a challenge due to a number of constraints, which are similar to those highlighted by previous speakers.

In order to address the barriers a number of initiatives including, but not limited to the following, have been pursued; renewable energy is now part of the curriculum at post-primary level as a measure to improve dissemination and awareness raising efforts on these types of energy carriers. Also special emphasis is placed on the use of renewable energy for income generating activities thus contributing to poverty reduction, one of the greatest challenges facing Lesotho and cushioning the initial high investment costs of renewable energy technologies.

Regarding the competitiveness of renewable energy technologies, case studies of three hospitals in Lesotho confirm that solar water heating water is economically more attractive over a long term compared grid electricity. Most hospitals in Lesotho now use solar heated water. Inclusion of other parameters such as environmental cost in tariff setting, will have a further positive impact on renewable energy generated electricity.

Thank you all for your kind attention.