



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
KHOTSONG
204 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016*

STATEMENT

BY

**MRS. MASABATA PHEKO
DIRECTOR ECONOMIC AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

DURING THE

**INFORMAL STOCKTAKING SESSION OF THE
INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATION PROCESS FOR THE
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**19 JANUARY 2015
NEW YORK**

Please check against delivery

Co-facilitators,

Lesotho aligns itself with the Statements delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representatives of South Africa, Morocco, Benin and Niger on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the African Group, the Least Developed Countries and the Landlocked Developing Countries, respectively.

Co-facilitators,

The year 2015 is a landmark year in many ways for the global community. The celebration of the 70th anniversary of the United Nations is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to further unite the international community in common cause towards realization of a better world. During the coming months we will also be presented with a historic occasion to agree on an inspiring development agenda that will directly improve the lives of people around the world.

Our quest to pursue a sustainable future for all must never wane as we step into this new era. The intergovernmental negotiation process geared towards adoption of an inclusive and transformative post-2015 development agenda heralds an unprecedented opportunity to take far-reaching, long-overdue global action to secure our future well-being. The process should continue to be Member State-led, transparent and inclusive.

Co-facilitators,

Looking beyond the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), much remains to be done in order to build the future we want. Continuing gaps – on poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, water, sanitation and many other issues – will still need attention after 2015. The development agenda for the period after 2015 will have to build on the progress achieved through the MDGs, while addressing persistent inequalities and new challenges facing people and the planet. The new framework will need to advance sustainable development, while protecting the environment. It will also need to address issues such as inclusive growth, equality, peace and security, governance and human rights. The agenda must be bold, ambitious and universal – relevant to all people and all societies, everywhere.

Co-facilitators,

The post-2015 development agenda will not attain its desired impact without renewed political commitment. We need to shape an ambitious agenda that is truly transformative to achieve sustainable development in all its dimensions. It is vital that we conclude a new set of universal sustainable development goals that are concise and strong on the means of implementation and global partnership for sustainable development. Our agenda must be concrete, understandable and inspirational, with time-bound targets, for which measurable indicators can be developed.

As I conclude, let me assure you of my delegation's full commitment to the intergovernmental negotiation process aimed at formulating and concluding a truly transformative development agenda.

I thank you.