



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

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STATEMENT

BY

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE DR. PAKALITHA B. MOSISILI
PRIME MINISTER AND HEAD OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

AT THE

**UNITED NATIONS SUMMIT FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA**

**26 SEPTEMBER 2015
NEW YORK**

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**Distinguished Co-Chairs,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

At the turn of the new millennium, we gathered in this very Assembly hall to adopt the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Through the MDGs, we created a blueprint for ending extreme poverty, and indeed offered new hope to the world's poorest, that their well-being would be significantly improved by the year 2015.

As we lament our failure to meet the MDGs in full, we ought to acknowledge that in most Countries, significant progress was recorded in accelerating MDG indicators such as Free Primary Education and Empowerment of Women, and in this regard Lesotho is no exception. We ought to further acknowledge that the hurdles we faced have provided a great learning experience as we focus on the way forward.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

As we mark the end of the MDGs cycle, we do so with a renewed sense of hope because through the Outcome Document that we have just adopted, we clearly articulate our unwavering commitment to address the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals. The Post-2015 Development Agenda, provides a fresh impetus to our common strategies of addressing the key challenges on the path to a better life for all.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development signifies the growth agenda for the 21st Century. It is a plan of action for ending poverty in all its forms irreversibly, everywhere, and leaving no one behind. It seeks to ensure peace and prosperity, and places people at the centre. The integrated, interlinked and indivisible seventeen SDGs are the people's goals and demonstrate the scale, universality and ambition of this new Agenda. The relevance of this new Agenda is in its emphasis on poverty eradication as an overarching goal of the envisaged sustainable development which seeks integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

There is no doubt that the SDGs are more ambitious than the MDGs. Their attainment will, therefore, be all the more challenging. It is gratifying to note that the means of implementation outlined in the Outcome Document match these ambitious goals by focusing on finance, technology and capacity development. It is also a cause for celebration that in addition to a stand-alone goal on the means of implementation, specific means are tailored for each of the SDGs.

Lesotho cannot agree more with the clarion call for departure from “business as usual”, as well as intensified international cooperation on all fronts. The new agenda puts emphasis on increased capacity-building, better data and statistics to measure sustainable development. It would therefore, be remiss of me not to underscore the importance of an effective follow-up and review regime to support effective implementation of this new Agenda.

Distinguished Co-Chairs,

In conclusion, allow me to reiterate the need to translate the ambitious Agenda we have just adopted into pragmatic, sustainable national development plans. Furthermore, we need to ensure that adequate institutional, human and financial capacities are in place at the national level, in order for us to achieve these goals. We need to engage the private sector and other stakeholders, so that we can be the first generation to end extreme poverty and the last generation to face climate change as an existential threat.

Sustainable development ought to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. We need to bequeath to future generations a solid foundation that they can built on. Without full political commitment of all world leaders, the attainment of the SDGs will be a distant mirage. The attainment of sustainable development goals is not an option but an imperative of our time. We owe it to humanity to achieve these goals at all costs.

I THANK YOU