

STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Review of Congo

**17TH Session of UPR Working Group of Human Rights Council,
30 October 2013**

The delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho would like to welcome the Honourable Minister of ~~.....~~ COMMUNICATION of the Republic of Congo and his accompanying delegation to their second Universal Periodic Review. Lesotho further thanks Congolese delegation for comprehensive presentation and appreciates the open approach that Congo has taken in preparation of its National Report, including candid acknowledgement of persistent problem and challenges in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

Mr. President,

Lesotho also commends the strides that Congo has made and continues to make in the socio-economic, civil and political spheres. While some challenges remain, particularly in the spheres of education, health, employment, Lesotho delegation takes note of the measures that government has taken within its national priorities to overcome these challenges.

Lesotho would like to recommend that Congo remains steadfast in pursuing its impressive policies towards gender equality, particularly by strengthening measures to eradicate gender-based violence.

Mr. President, It is in this connection that Lesotho calls on the international community to provide the requisite technical and financial assistance to Congo in support of its efforts, as well as for the full implementation of the recommendations that may come out of this review.

Allow me, **Mr. President**, to conclude by expressing, once again, Lesotho's appreciation to the Congolese delegation for the constructive and openness with which they participate in the UPR process and Lesotho wishes Congo all the best in the implementation of the recommendations.

I thank you