



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW REPORT OF
LESOTHO

21 January 2015

Mr. President,

Mauritius joins others in welcoming the delegation of Lesotho to the 21st session of the UPR Working Group and to thank Honourable Haae PHOOFOLO, Minister of Law, ^{and Constitutional Affairs} Human Rights for the comprehensive and detailed presentation of Lesotho's national report.

My delegation commends the Government of Lesotho for implementing most of the recommendations received at its last UPR in 2010 and for the wide inclusive consultations held in the preparation of its report under review today.

We acknowledge Lesotho's unrelenting efforts in meeting its international human rights obligations and in strengthening its system for the safeguard of human rights of its citizens. In this regard, we noted with satisfaction the adoption of the various pieces of legislations including, *inter alia*, the Children's Protection and Welfare Act 2011, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011, the Public Meetings and Processing Act, the Communications Act 2012, and the 6th amendment to the Constitution. We also commend Lesotho for the various Action Plans that have been developed since its last review- the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan (2014/15- 2018/19), the National Strategic Plan on Vulnerable Children 2012-2017, the National Action Plan on Women, Girls and HIV and AIDS 2012-2017, which are concrete examples of Lesotho's determination to improve the rights of the most vulnerable segments of its population.

We also encourage the Government of Lesotho to pursue actively the development of its National Human Rights Policy, the cornerstone for coordinated approach towards improvement of human rights in the country.

We welcome the initiatives taken by Lesotho to establish its Human Rights Commission and understand that it is seeking assistance and capacity-building. In this regard, Lesotho may consider availing itself of the experiences of Mauritius, which has a fully functional Human Rights Commission.

We also appreciate Lesotho's efforts in achieving high literacy rates and in providing free and compulsory primary education. We recommend that human rights education be included in the school curriculum and the necessary assistance and capacity-building be provided to Lesotho in this regard.

I thank you Mr. President.