



PERMANENT MISSION OF SLOVENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

Rue de Vermont 37-39, CH - 1202 Geneva
Tel.: +41/22/716 1780, Fax: +41/22/738 6665

UPR of LESOTHO

Mr. President,

Slovenia welcomes the distinguished delegation of Lesotho and thanks them for their presentation.

We're pleased to note that Lesotho has achieved remarkable progress since its previous review in a number of areas, and has adopted several important laws and policies. We particularly welcome the Children's Protection and Welfare Act and the increase of the age of criminal responsibility, improved water supply and sanitation, high levels of investment in education, measures taken to combat the spread of HIV, the National Action Plan to end Gender Based Violence, and measures to promote gender equality.

Nevertheless, discriminatory practices towards women, entrenched in customs, beliefs and traditions, reportedly persevere, and are manifested through, inter alia, the alarming rate of sexual violence and HIV infections among women, the prevalence of trafficking in women and girls, the continued practice of abductions of girls for forced marriage, and a number of discriminatory customary laws, relating in particular to family relations.

We offer the following **recommendations** to the government of Lesotho:

- to further strengthen the understanding of gender equality, in order to eliminate patriarchal attitudes and gender stereotypes;
- to ensure full gender equality in marriage and family relations, including by expressly prohibiting gender-based discrimination and repealing remaining discriminatory provisions;
- to offer comprehensive sexuality education and ensure access to sexual and reproductive health services, including legal and safe abortion;
- to meet the target of allocating 15% of government spending to health, in accordance with the Abuja Declaration;
- to repeal legislation criminalizing male homosexuality, and introduce targeted policies to eradicate discrimination based on SOGI.

Thank you.