

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
21st Session – 21 January 2015
STATE UNDER REVIEW: LESOTHO

(Intervention by Turkey)

Mr. President,

We thank the delegation of Lesotho for the comprehensive presentation of its report today.

Following its first review in 2010, Lesotho made notable improvements in the field of human rights, despite all socio-economic challenges it faced since then. In this regard it is worth mentioning that Lesotho joined and ratified different international agreements and established a National Human Rights Commission.

We note with appreciation that Lesotho has made significant progress in terms of gender equality, especially in terms of women representation in politics. Nevertheless, cases of gender based violence remain a cause of concern. Therefore, Turkey **recommends** that Lesotho provides comprehensive protection for women exposed to violence. Turkey further **recommends** Lesotho to enact the law on domestic violence in order to overcome the Penal Code's shortcomings in covering domestic violence cases.

Bearing in mind that human trafficking today still constitutes a major human rights violation, we welcome the steps taken by Lesotho to encounter this challenge. In line with several treaty bodies, Turkey encourages Lesotho to continue its efforts and **recommends** to ensure the prosecution and punishment of perpetrators as well as to endure necessary assistance to victims.

Finally, we welcome that a conducive climate for the elections in February 2015 has been created through efforts and the contribution of the Southern African Development Community. While appreciating the efforts of Lesotho in promoting voter awareness and providing electoral education, Turkey **recommends** that the provisions of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration are respected and an environment for free, fair and democratic elections is ensured. In this regard, Turkey reiterates to continue its firm support to the Government of Lesotho.

I thank you Mr. President.