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## Statement By The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the Universal Periodic Review of Lesotho

Ethiopia welcomes the delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho led by H.E Mr. Haae Phoofolo Minister of Law, HR and Constitutional affairs to the 21<sup>st</sup> Session of the UPR Working Group. We thank the delegation for the comprehensive national report and the oral update.

We commend Lesotho for implementing significant number of recommendations from the first UPR cycle. The Report clearly identifies the priority areas of the country. It also elaborates the achievements made since the first cycle UPR review. In this regard Ethiopia would like to commend the Kingdom of Lesotho for its achievements and the progressive implementation of the recommendations of the Council.

We note with great satisfaction the indicators of the comprehensive country review conducted as part of the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) and the achievements, *inter alia*, in the areas of peace and political stability, gender equality, dispensation of Justice, registration high literacy rate, human resource development and increased coverage of provision of public service.

We particularly note with appreciation the emphasis given by Lesotho to alleviate poverty, ensure food security and reduce unemployment. We commend Lesotho for putting in place legal and policy frameworks in this regard.

Ethiopia commends the Kingdom of Lesotho for enacting anti-trafficking in person act and the launching of anti-trafficking in persons strategic framework and action plan for 2014-2016. We recommend Lesotho progressive and effective implementation of the legislations and policies in trafficking in Persons.

Ethiopia welcomes the progress made by Lesotho in fighting HIV/AIDS and access to health coverage, we also note the challenge that Lesotho faces in this regard and recommend Lesotho to ensure the new initiatives on health centres to reach all districts of the Kingdom.

Finally, we wish all the best to the delegation of Lesotho in its engagement with the Human Rights Council.

**Thank you**