



Closing Remarks

by the

**Minister of Law, Human Rights and Constitutional Affairs
of the
Kingdom of Lesotho
Honourable Adv. Haae Phoofolo**

at the

21st Session of the Universal Periodic Review

**21st January, 2015
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

Mr. President

On behalf of the Lesotho delegation, I wish to extend our deepest appreciation and thank all delegations for the questions, comments, recommendations and above all the good spirit and constructive manner in which they have engaged with us. It is my sincere hope that our exchange has been mutually rewarding. However, we do not believe that we have all the answers but we are optimistic that we are on the right path.

Cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms is an issue of high priority on the agenda of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho. It is for this reason that we continue to play an active role in the work of the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms.

Lesotho believes in the relevance and usefulness of the UPR mechanism and the potential it holds for assisting U.N Member States towards the realisation of human rights for all in a broad-minded manner. The UPR has been a worthwhile process for my country as we have been able to reflect on the priority areas that need our attention. It provides an opportunity for us to systematically create the enabling environment for enhancing the realisation of human rights.

Lesotho is a country with strong traditions and values. Some of these traditions may not be in line with modern standards and trends. They have to change but, in a democracy, this can only be realised in an inclusive manner, involving all, through vigorous and continuing education. We are cognisant of the need for such

change and are progressively promoting it through various pieces of legislation as well as by raising public awareness.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I wish to reaffirm the commitment of the Government of Lesotho to uphold the human rights of all Basotho. We look forward to working with our Troika that consist of Ghana, France and Maldives, over the next few days towards preparing a report that faithfully reflects the review exercise.

I thank you.

