

**HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL - 21ST SESSION OF THE WORKING GROUP ON
THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW - STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE
GHANA DELEGATION ON THE SECOND CYCLE REVIEW OF LESOTHO**

WEDNESDAY, 21ST JANUARY 2015

Ghana wishes to warmly welcome the participation of the distinguished delegation of Lesotho in the second cycle of the UPR process.

We commend Lesotho the establishment of a National Human Rights Commission which we hope would be operational in full compliance with the Paris Principles. We also commend Lesotho for the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act and the Children's Protection and Welfare Act.

However, Ghana shares the concern expressed by CEDAW about the high incidence of trafficking in women and girls.

Ghana wishes to recommend that Lesotho:

- Adopt legislative measures to check trafficking in women and girls
- Takes steps to decriminalize defamation and review its media-related laws including the Printing and Publishing Act (1967).
- Submit its overdue initial and periodic reports to the various Human Rights Treaty Bodies, some of which have been overdue since 1994.
- Considers issuing Standing Invitations to all Special Procedures.
- Takes more effective measures ^{to} address cultural practices that fosters discrimination against women.
- Endeavour to investigate all cases of gender violence, punish the perpetrators and compensate the victims.

Finally, Ghana wishes Lesotho a successful outcome to this review process.

Thank you, Mr. President.