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**Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic
Review***

Lesotho

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its forty-ninth session from 28 April to 9 May 2025. The review of Lesotho was held at the 6th meeting, on 30 April 2025. The delegation of Lesotho was headed by the Minister of Law and Justice, Richard Ramoeletsi. At its 16th meeting, held on 7 May 2025, the Working Group adopted the report on Lesotho.

2. On 8 January 2025, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Lesotho: Germany, Indonesia and South Africa.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Lesotho:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a);¹

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);²

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).³

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Costa Rica, on behalf of the members of the core group of sponsors of the resolutions on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (Costa Rica, Maldives and Slovenia), Germany, Panama, on behalf of the core group of sponsors of the resolution on the open-ended intergovernmental working group on an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the rights to early childhood education, free pre-primary education and free secondary education (Armenia, Bulgaria, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Romania and Sierra Leone), Portugal, on behalf of the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Lesotho through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Lesotho, Tšiu Khathibe, introduced the members of the delegation of Lesotho: the Minister of Law and Justice and head of the delegation, Mr. Ramoeletsi; the Attorney General and alternate head of the delegation, Rapelang Motsieloa; the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice, Lira Ralebese; and experts from the Lesotho Correctional Services, the National Mechanism on Reporting, Implementation and Follow-Up, and the Human Rights Unit of Lesotho.

6. The Minister of Law and Justice presented the country's fourth-cycle report on the measures being taken for the promotion and protection of human rights, which had emanated from the third cycle at which Lesotho had received 211 recommendations. In his statement, the Minister shared highlights on key legislative, policy, administrative, programmatic and other measures geared towards the promotion and protection of human rights and on progress made in implementing the recommendations received. He explained that the report had been compiled by the National Mechanism on Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up, set up in August 2021 by a decision of Cabinet. The report had then been circulated to all stakeholders for further inputs. The work of the National Mechanism on Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up was – among other things – to oversee the reporting and to

¹ [A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/1](#).

² [A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/2](#).

³ [A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/3](#).

follow up on the dissemination and implementation of recommendations of all international and regional human rights bodies.

7. The Minister mentioned that Lesotho was still undergoing national reforms, which included constitutional reforms. The Government intended to establish a comprehensive and systematic process to transpose all international human rights treaties that Lesotho had ratified into national legislation.

8. The Minister also spoke about issues relating to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and to food production. He explained that Lesotho had made strides by establishing legal frameworks, promoting conservation efforts and addressing specific environmental challenges to guide environmental protection and management. The country also provided for adequate sanitation, through a combination of infrastructure development, community engagement and policy initiatives. In order to improve food security, enhance local livelihoods and ensure a resilient agricultural sector, Lesotho employed a combination of sustainable farming practices and regulatory measures to promote diversified livelihoods and income generation, especially among young people and smallholder farmers.

9. Lesotho had taken steps to ensure one year of free primary education, aligning with Sustainable Development Goal 4, by expanding reception classes in primary schools and improving the quality of early childhood care and of learning about child development.

10. The Minister also highlighted issues related to improvement of prison conditions. Those improvements were aimed at aligning the country's prisons with international standards.

11. In order to combat child labour, Lesotho had established a trafficking in persons and migrant control unit within the police service. The unit had been trained on strategies to combat forced labour.

12. It had partnered with labour inspectors to detect child labour, and routine inspections were conducted to monitor progress.

13. The Minister stated that the Government had recently promulgated laws prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation. These included the Labour Act 2024, the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, the Counter Domestic Violence Act 2022 and the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act 2022. To address discrimination against women under customary law, Lesotho had enacted the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024. The Labour Act also proscribed child labour, child exploitation and child trafficking, complementing the amended Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011 which had been amended to redefine the term "trafficking in persons" and to remove the option of a fine.

14. In order to improve investment conditions in the country, Lesotho had adopted a non-partisan and transparent fight against corruption.

15. The Minister also referred to the Policy for Older Persons, of 2014, now under review, and to the Strategic Plan for Older Persons, of 2018. He explained that those policy frameworks implemented the second, extended National Strategic Development Plan and international standards on ageing. The Plan was designed to combat ageism, promote awareness-raising, provide social and health support, and address the root causes of negative attitudes towards older persons. The policy frameworks included training for media outlets on responsible reporting.

16. The Minister stated that Lesotho had made progress in improving access to healthcare for survivors of sexual violence. This included the implementation of guidelines for medicolegal care, providing emergency contraception and ensuring that they received appropriate medical attention.

17. To provide healthcare services for people living with HIV/AIDS, with support from the Elizabeth Glaser Paediatric AIDS Foundation and the United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief among others, the Government was implementing a policy framework on HIV/AIDS using a multifaceted approach. This included comprehensive treatment and care, strengthened community-based services and ongoing advocacy and research.

18. The Minister concluded by emphasizing that irrespective of the above-mentioned endeavours, Lesotho was still beset with challenges, such as poverty, a high level of unemployment, food insecurity and a high HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, among other things, and these inhibited the advancement of human rights.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 91 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. Slovenia welcomed the efforts of Lesotho on women's and children's rights but raised concern about the persistently high levels of violence against women and girls, including the prevalence of domestic violence.

21. South Africa commended the progress made by Lesotho in ratifying human rights treaties, the adoption of the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, the Persons with Disability Equity Act and the Counter Domestic Violence Act, and the inclusion of protections relating to LGBTIQ+ employee rights in the Labour Act.

22. South Sudan commended Lesotho for making significant strides towards ratifying all nine international human rights treaties as well as some optional protocols, and further applauded Lesotho for the milestones it had achieved towards the global goal of ending HIV/AIDS by 2030 as well as for its continued efforts to make progress on equality and non-discrimination.

23. Spain congratulated the Government on the important laws it had adopted, which bolstered the rights of women and girls in respect of child marriage and inheritance.

24. The Sudan praised the promulgation of a new law on persons with disabilities and of the Labour Act, the adoption of a restorative justice system, the alternatives to prison and the committees to fight corruption.

25. Switzerland welcomed the delegation of Lesotho and made recommendations.

26. Thailand welcomed the human rights progress made by Lesotho, highlighting the Persons with Disability Equity Act.

27. Togo noted the progress made by Lesotho in implementing its Food and Nutrition Strategy and the detailed action plan for 2019–2023.

28. Tunisia commended Lesotho for adopting the second National Social Protection Strategy, for the period 2021–2031, and the Child Protection Act.

29. Türkiye welcomed the National Strategic Development Plan, highlighting progress on equality and sustainable growth for all. It appreciated the will of Lesotho to intensify measures to enhance the right to education for all and to organize outreach campaigns to promote increased access to education for children in rural areas.

30. Uganda commended the provision of free primary education and the protection of the girl child through school.

31. Ukraine commended the reforms that Lesotho had undertaken to advance the rights of persons with disabilities, women and children, and noted the positive efforts aimed at amending the Constitution to establish an independent national human rights commission.

32. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland urged Lesotho to address gender-based violence, to protect communities near the Highlands Water Project and provide them with adequate compensation and educational and employment opportunities, to safeguard women from sexual exploitation and to improve early education for ebaPhuti and Xhosa children.

33. The United Republic of Tanzania commended the enactment of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, the Labour Act 2024 and the Counter Domestic Violence Act 2022.

34. Uruguay praised the efforts in following up on the recommendations through the national reporting mechanism, as well as progress towards ratifying nine fundamental international human rights treaties and some of the optional protocols. It mentioned the progress made by Lesotho on equality, non-discrimination, and advancing LGBTIQ+ rights through legislative reforms.
35. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the Persons with Disability Equity Act and the 2024 Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill.
36. Viet Nam commended the Labour Act 2024, disability protection efforts, investments in education, and the commitment by Lesotho to combating gender violence and overcoming climate challenges.
37. Zambia commended the adoption of a bill by the National Assembly establishing a national human rights institution.
38. Vanuatu commended Lesotho on its progress, particularly on the adoption of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024, which had repealed discriminatory practices in relation to girls' inheritance rights.
39. Zimbabwe commended the legal and institutional reforms as well as efforts in transposing ratified human rights instruments into national legislation since the last review.
40. Armenia welcomed the adoption of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act and the National Gender Policy.
41. Australia encouraged Lesotho to implement the Labour Act 2024 and expedite the passage of the National Human Rights Commission Amendment Bill, being concerned that progress on these legislative reforms had been slow.
42. The Bahamas positively recognized progress made since the last review, notably the establishment of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, the adoption of the Persons with Disability Equity Act, and the significant investment in social protection programmes through the national social protection strategy. The Bahamas commended the efforts by Lesotho to expand access to safe drinking water under the Lowlands Water Development Project, and the initiatives it had taken to build resilience against climate change.
43. Bhutan welcomed the establishment of the National Climate Change Committee and the country's efforts to address gender-based violence, to protect women and children and to improve access to education.
44. Botswana welcomed the enactment of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021 and cooperation with human rights mechanisms.
45. Brazil commended Lesotho for its enactment of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021 and the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024, recognizing rights for children regardless of their birth circumstances. Brazil also praised Lesotho for the advances in combating AIDS. That progress should be complemented with improved access to basic healthcare services for all children, women and persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups and in rural areas.
46. Burkina Faso commended efforts to combat discrimination against persons with disabilities, through the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021.
47. Burundi welcomed the progress made by Lesotho in regard to women's equality, including their representation in decision-making bodies, and in regard to protecting persons with disabilities and strengthening education for rural and disadvantaged children.
48. Cabo Verde commended the ratification of international human rights instruments and the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission.
49. Cameroon welcomed the creation of the National Human Rights Commission.
50. The Minister of Law and Justice gave the Attorney General an opportunity to respond and address the issues, which included questions on the death penalty, the rights of the child, of persons with disabilities and of older persons, and the right to health, among others.

51. On the issue of the death penalty, the Attorney General mentioned that Lesotho was de facto abolitionist, and had not carried out the death penalty since 1995.
52. The Attorney General emphasized that issues relating to the rights of persons with disabilities were a top priority for the Government. In that regard, the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021 ensured accessible and merit-based employment for persons with disabilities.
53. On the issue of the right to education, the Attorney General indicated that public schools received teaching and learning materials, school meal provision and some teacher training as support from the Government.
54. The Attorney General added that the Department of Home Affairs, with support from the International Organization for Migration, carried out awareness-raising campaigns on birth registration and cross-border crimes.
55. The Government, through the National Identity and Civil Registry, was taking steps to ensure that legal identity was provided for all. In April 2025, the Government had launched the Digital Birth Registration System to ensure that children's rights to identity were recognized from the moment they were born, with a view to addressing statelessness.
56. The Attorney General added that in order to avert a child labour crisis, the Government had developed the Integrated National Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour 2024–2029, with a view to strengthening and coordinating all national efforts geared towards the elimination of child labour.
57. The Government had also established an anti-trafficking and migrant control unit, within the Ministry of Police, as mentioned in the opening statement. Law enforcement officials had been trained to deal specifically with child labour and elimination of slavery and servitude. The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act 2011 had been amended in 2021, redefining the term “trafficking in persons” and removing the option of a fine for persons convicted of that offence of trafficking in persons.
58. On the right to health, the Attorney General added that other strides made included improvements in delivery care, and declines in the ratios of maternal and infant mortality. In order to guarantee the physical accessibility of healthcare services, including sexual and reproductive health services for women from disadvantaged backgrounds and women living in rural areas, the Government, as the key provider of health services, had developed community-based centres in mountainous and hard-to-reach places.
59. The Government's efforts were supplemented by the private sector, such as the Christian Health Association of Lesotho and non-governmental organizations, which also provided hospital- and clinic-based health services in remote areas of Lesotho.
60. Women living in rural areas were able to access services from these institutions. In places where there were no community centres, the Government provided mobile clinics to reach people.
61. Canada welcomed the 2024 revision of the Labour Act prohibiting discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation.
62. Chile welcomed the approval of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021.
63. China commended the cooperation by Lesotho with treaty bodies, the incorporation of international conventions into domestic law, and measures to eliminate discrimination, combat corruption, alleviate poverty and improve people's living standards.
64. Colombia praised Lesotho for its national report.
65. The Congo welcomed the progress made by Lesotho in aligning laws with human rights standards, bringing its national legislation into line with ratified international instruments on human rights. It mentioned the law prohibiting discrimination against persons with disabilities, and legal recognition for children born out of wedlock, particularly with regard to their entitlement to inherit.

66. Costa Rica was grateful to Lesotho for its report and welcomed its commitment to climate resilience, including mitigation and adaptation plans, and the inclusion of remote communities, women and children in those plans.
67. Côte d'Ivoire encouraged Lesotho to step up its efforts to improve access to education and healthcare, as well as to combat child labour and school dropout.
68. Cuba commended Lesotho for incorporating into the domestic legal order its commitments under various international human rights instruments, referring to the adoption of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act 2022, the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024 and the Labour Act 2024.
69. Cyprus encouraged continued progress in increasing access to safe, sustainable and affordable water, sanitation and hygiene systems in rural communities.
70. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea commended the Government of Lesotho for its steadfast commitment and tangible efforts to advance and protect fundamental human rights principles and values through a robust national legal framework, and the National Strategic Development Plan and policies.
71. The Democratic Republic of the Congo praised Lesotho for its efforts since its last universal periodic review, especially at the legislative level, with the adoption of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021 and of the draft law on modifications to the law on child well-being and protection, in 2024, in a constructive spirit.
72. Djibouti welcomed the commitments to promoting human rights and noted with satisfaction measures taken to implement recommendations accepted during the last universal periodic review, especially through various institutional and normative reforms.
73. The Dominican Republic highlighted the approval of the Counter Domestic Violence Act 2022, the bolstering of child protection with reforms that penalized early marriage, and the significant progress made in the field of inclusive education and reproductive health.
74. Egypt commended the efforts made to submit reports to treaty bodies and to promote safe migration and youth employment. It welcomed the adoption of the second national strategy for social protection, and the development of programmes to bolster capacities to adapt to climate change.
75. Eritrea commended the revision of the School Health and Nutrition Policy and the expansion of access to water and sanitation in rural areas. Eritrea noted the implementation of the Lesotho Child Grants Programme aimed at supporting poor and vulnerable households.
76. Estonia noted efforts to strengthen the rights of women and children but expressed concern about the high rates of school dropout.
77. Eswatini commended the steps taken to finalize the operationalization of an independent National Human Rights Commission.
78. Ethiopia commended efforts made to improve access to education through initiatives targeting early childhood care and special education.
79. Gabon commended Lesotho for its efforts to combat the stigma associated with menstruation, including through awareness-raising campaigns.
80. The Gambia commended Lesotho for ratifying all core human rights treaties and for the progress it had made in adopting legislation promoting gender equality and protection against violence.
81. Georgia welcomed the launching of the Counter Domestic Violence Act and the Persons with Disability Equity Act.
82. Germany urged Lesotho to reinforce the commitment of its security forces to the rule of law and to strengthen its judicial institutions through adequate financial and operative means. Germany was concerned by reports of a lack of opportunities for civil society engagement in the country's official universal periodic review reporting process.

83. Ghana noted progress achieved on health and to improve access to clean water and sanitation in rural communities.
84. Guyana commended Lesotho for adopting legislation to give effect to its treaty body obligations and adopting the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act 2022, the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021 and the Counter Domestic Violence Act 2022.
85. Iceland made recommendations.
86. India expressed appreciation for the efforts made on disaster resilience, climate change response, food security and the empowerment of women.
87. Indonesia commended the adoption of the National Migration and Development Policy, in 2022, which would ensure the rights of all migrants.
88. The Islamic Republic of Iran recognized efforts made to protect human rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights.
89. Iraq welcomed the steps taken by Lesotho in ratifying key international treaties and enacting a law on persons with disabilities.
90. Ireland acknowledged the efforts of Lesotho to advance human rights domestically; however, it regretted that Lesotho had not abolished the death penalty and noted that Lesotho lacked a national human rights institution in line with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).
91. Italy commended the recent adoption by Lesotho of the Labour Act and of the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act.
92. Jordan commended the presentation of the national report of Lesotho, which reflected the achievements made in the human rights sphere.
93. Kuwait commended the legislative reforms enacted by Lesotho, particularly in the areas of children's rights and women's empowerment.
94. Latvia welcomed the measures taken to strengthen the national legislative framework and uphold the human rights obligations of Lesotho.
95. The Principal Secretary of the Ministry of Law and Justice took the floor and explained the measures taken to address overcrowding in detention facilities. The newly renovated facilities had running water, and water systems for toilets. Despite facing poverty, Lesotho ensured inmates' right to food, providing them with three meals a day.
96. On the issues of prohibition of torture, and elimination of excessive use of force by security forces and of assault in prisons, which had occurred in 2023, the Ombudsman had investigated and had recommended further investigations. Concerning the handling of cases of members of the police in breach of the Code of Conduct, such as for excessive use of force, the Lesotho Mounted Police Service housed the inspectorate on complaints and discipline. In 2024 and 2025, it handled 23 cases.
97. With a view to addressing the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, Lesotho was focusing on protected areas and community-based conservation initiatives, in order to balance conservation and development. National parks and reserves had been established to protect valuable habitats and endangered species and to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity. The Government had developed a project to restore degraded watersheds through emergency rehabilitation measures and had implemented catchment management plans.
98. On the issue of ending hunger and achieving food security, farmers had been encouraged to use drought-tolerant crop varieties to withstand climate change impacts, utilizing technology to address nutrient depletion, and to promote soil health through practices such as cover cropping and organic matter application. The Government was continuing to implement block farming programmes to increase agricultural productivity.
99. The key strategies for safeguarding access to safe water and adequate sanitation included the construction and maintenance of water treatment facilities, the distribution of

water through networks, building sanitation infrastructure such as latrines, and educating communities about hygiene practices.

100. The country's primary anti-corruption body was the directorate on corruption and economic offences. The Government of Lesotho had continued to demonstrate its commitment to rooting out corruption by more than doubling the budget of the anti-corruption body in its second year of operation. Additionally, Lesotho had made progress on budget transparency and e-citizenship, integrating anti-corruption into school curricula and promoting ethical conduct among young people. With regard to the prohibition of torture, Lesotho had made significant progress in transposing the provisions of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment into national legislation. The Penal Code Act reflected provisions of that Convention in part in its sections 95 and 96, which criminalized war crimes and crimes against humanity.

101. Steps were being taken to draft anti-torture legislation, which must ensure redress for victims of torture, including compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of non-repetition.

102. Lebanon appreciated the country's efforts to protect the rights of persons with albinism and persons with disabilities, with regard to equal access to education and employment.

103. Libya made recommendations.

104. Malawi commend Lesotho for enacting the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, which provided a legal framework for advancing the rights of persons with disabilities.

105. Malaysia commended Lesotho for making notable progress in the promotion and protection of human rights.

106. Maldives applauded the efforts of Lesotho to implement the Climate Change Policy of 2017, aimed at improving land rehabilitation and food production.

107. Mali congratulated Lesotho on opening new schools to ensure that no children were left behind, including children with special needs. Mali welcomed the gender equality policies of Lesotho for the period 2018–2030, which sought to incorporate gender equality and the empowerment of women in policies, programmes, plans and budgets in all sectors.

108. The Marshall Islands commended the efforts of Lesotho to safeguard the rights of children, including by criminalizing child marriage.

109. Mauritania appreciated the efforts by Lesotho to protect human rights and achieve sustainable development for its citizens, referring to its 2017 policy on climate change.

110. Mauritius congratulated Lesotho on the strides made in the field of health, in particular regarding the treatment of cancer.

111. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the nine core international human rights treaties, as well as the normative progress on disability, labour, domestic violence, inheritance and equal succession.

112. Montenegro noted with concern reports of torture and ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials, and lack of accountability.

113. Morocco praised the efforts of Lesotho to fulfil its international commitments in the field of human rights, which included adopting laws relating to the rights of persons with disabilities, children's protection and welfare, and domestic violence.

114. Mozambique thanked Lesotho for the efforts it had made to implement the recommendations received in the previous cycle.

115. Namibia applauded Lesotho for making significant progress on equality and non-discrimination, specifically by enacting the Persons with Disability Equity Act in 2021.

116. Nepal took positive note of the progress made in promoting gender equality and mainstreaming.

117. The Kingdom of the Netherlands expressed concerns about the excessive force used by law enforcement officers during peaceful demonstrations and the lack of effective investigations and prosecutions.

118. Panama thanked the delegation for presenting the national report.

119. The Philippines praised the Government's efforts to combat trafficking in persons with the amendment of the anti-trafficking law, the establishment of the trafficking in persons control unit and the development of guidelines on victim protection.

120. Portugal commended Lesotho on adopting the Counter Domestic Violence Act and on ratifying three International Labour Organization conventions.

121. Qatar appreciated the priority given by the Government of Lesotho to improving child health and reducing child mortality.

122. The Republic of Korea commended the comprehensive efforts by Lesotho to eliminate gender-based violence, by integrating educational materials on gender-based violence into the national curriculum and strengthening the centre for survivors of gender-based violence.

123. The Russian Federation welcomed the efforts of the Government to guarantee, through the Constitution, the rights and freedoms of citizens. A positive signal was the adoption of a new law on equal rights for persons with disabilities, with national legislation brought into line with international conventions.

124. Rwanda commended Lesotho for the Labour Act 2024, which provided a comprehensive employment relations framework, promoting fair labour practices, and for the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2024, which regulated safety and health at both the private and the public workplaces.

125. Samoa recognized the initiatives taken to address climate change through the implementation of its Climate Change Policy, and the establishment of the National Climate Change Committee.

126. Serbia commended the dedication shown by Lesotho to the universal periodic review process and its commitment to improving its legal and institutional framework to bring it into line with international human rights standards. Serbia also commended the adoption of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, which ensured access to employment for persons with disabilities.

127. Sierra Leone noted the enactment of the Children's Protection and Welfare (Amendment) Bill 2023, which criminalized child marriage and contained a range of measures to address barriers to education.

128. Singapore commended the efforts by Lesotho to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas.

129. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative explained that the country's development agenda was centred on the second, extended National Strategic Development Plan. That plan was aimed at achieving sustainable and inclusive economic growth, good governance and poverty reduction.

130. He stated that in 2022, Lesotho had compiled a report on its voluntary national review on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, and the achievements made on the set targets, which had emphasized the need for more engagement on Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 1 on ending poverty, Goal 3 on good health and well-being, Goal 4 on quality education and Goal 8 on decent work and economic growth.

131. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative spoke about the operationalization of the Human Rights Commission, which was compliant with the Paris Principles. He noted that the tenth amendment to the Constitution Bill of 2024 was at an advanced stage before Parliament. He said that the Government had committed a budget for the Human Rights Commission. The budget would be disbursed to the Commission to enable it to discharge its mandate effectively upon operationalization. He mentioned that additional support for capacity-building for the Commission had been secured from the Peacebuilding Fund.

132. To curb discrimination against the LGBTIQ+ community, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative indicated that the Government, in collaboration with civil society organizations, had embarked on activities to sensitize high-level government officials on building tolerance.

133. The Ambassador and Permanent Representative indicated that to enhance the representation of women in political and public life, including in senior leadership and decision-making positions, he indicated that following the 2022 general elections, Lesotho had the first female Deputy Prime Minister since its independence. Moreover, he stated that other measures to enhance the participation of women in public life had included the development of the National Strategic Development Plan, which set out strategic targets for women's participation in government programmes across all line ministries.

134. With regard to gender-based violence, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative said that the Government had a plan to establish a multi-purpose centre that would provide a supportive environment for holistic recovery, going beyond basic shelter. The Ministry of Health, with the support of the United Nations Population Fund, was working to improve the skills of healthcare professionals in identifying and assisting survivors of sexual abuse.

135. To create employment for youth, the Ambassador and Permanent Representative indicated that the Government, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, had launched the Unipod. This was a technology-focused facility aimed at assisting youth by incubating their ideas and projects. Also, there was an innovation hub called Sebatso Youth Innovation – a business-focused project where youth put up their projects for testing, which helped to address youth unemployment through innovation and the use of technology. He said that the Government had also set aside the budget for the youth apprenticeship programme. This was a system where young people fresh from university who did not have work experience were contracted for two years to work in the area of their choice so that they could gain experience and be ready for work.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

136. The response of Lesotho to the following recommendations will be included in the outcome report adopted by the Human Rights Council at its sixtieth session:

136.1 Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Libya);

136.2 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile) (Côte d'Ivoire) (Ghana) (Latvia) (Portugal) (South Sudan) (Ukraine);

136.3 Finalize ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Democratic Republic of the Congo);

136.4 Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Cyprus) (Estonia);

136.5 Consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (Türkiye);

136.6 Continue aligning national legislation and policies with the provisions of ratified international instruments, especially with those of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Rwanda);

136.7 Ratify the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Serbia);

- 136.8 Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education and enshrine the right to education in the Constitution and national legislation (Gambia);
- 136.9 Finalize ratification of the UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- 136.10 Consider ratifying the Convention against Discrimination in Education, and enshrining the right to education within the constitutional and legal framework of the Kingdom (Eswatini);
- 136.11 Consider ratification of outstanding human rights instruments in line with domestic priorities (Malawi);
- 136.12 Continue to bring national legislation in line with international standards in the area of human rights (Russian Federation);
- 136.13 Enhance existing cooperation with international human rights mechanisms and submit national reports to treaty bodies on a periodic basis (Egypt);
- 136.14 Continue efforts, including collaborating with OHCHR and other relevant organizations, to fulfil its treaty body reporting obligations (Guyana);
- 136.15 Continue to engage in constructive cooperation with the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and other human rights mechanisms (China);
- 136.16 Pursue cooperation and reporting to treaty bodies that Lesotho is a signatory of (Cuba);
- 136.17 Continue with the implementation of legal and institutional reforms, strengthening its national mechanisms and fulfilling its reporting obligations (Zimbabwe);
- 136.18 Consider adopting measures to expedite the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies (Namibia);
- 136.19 Continue cooperating with United Nations and African Union human rights mechanisms (Malawi);
- 136.20 Continue to implement training, capacity-building and awareness-raising workshops on human rights, including all national institutions (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 136.21 Further enhance human rights education and training for law enforcement and judicial officials to promote accountability, non-discrimination and respect for human rights (Thailand);
- 136.22 Prioritize the effective implementation of the recently enacted legislations, by enhancing institutional capacity (Bhutan);
- 136.23 Strengthen youth-focused HIV prevention strategies (Malaysia);
- 136.24 Strengthen policies that foster inclusive development and the well-being of all its citizens (Zimbabwe);
- 136.25 Strengthen collaboration with NGOs and increase funding and access to legal aid (Mozambique);
- 136.26 Strengthen integrated child-sensitive and gender-responsive protection services and allocate resources to implement the five-year National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children (Slovenia);
- 136.27 Expand human rights education and awareness campaigns, with a focus on the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities (Armenia);
- 136.28 Continue to develop national mechanisms in the area of human rights (Russian Federation);

- 136.29 Enhance the effective implementation of national programmes and strategies aiming at fostering human rights protection and ensuring safety (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 136.30 Further strengthen integrated child-sensitive and gender-responsive protection services aimed at the full realization of children's and women's rights (Rwanda);
- 136.31 Expedite the process of establishing and operationalizing the National Human Rights Institution in compliance with the Paris Principles (South Africa);
- 136.32 Expedite the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles (Thailand);
- 136.33 Expedite the ongoing process of establishing and operationalizing the National Human Rights Commission (Türkiye);
- 136.34 Conclude the establishment of an operational independent National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Burundi);
- 136.35 Expedite the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission, and ensure its independence and autonomy by allocating its own budget in line with the Paris Principles (Chile);
- 136.36 Accelerate the process of establishing the National Human Rights Commission, in accordance with the Paris Principles, and allocate sufficient financial, human and technical resources to it (Djibouti);
- 136.37 Expedite efforts to establish a national human rights commission in line with the Paris Principles (Gambia);
- 136.38 Establish National Human Rights Commission in line with the Paris Principles and ensure its independent operation (Republic of Korea);
- 136.39 Strengthen efforts for operationalization of the National Human Rights Commission (India);
- 136.40 Continue efforts to operationalize the independent national human rights commission (Egypt);
- 136.41 Finalize the operational modalities of an independent National Human Rights Commission (Georgia);
- 136.42 Accelerate the establishment of a National Human Rights Institution that is independent and adequately resourced so it can implement the Paris Principles (Dominican Republic);
- 136.43 Strengthen the capacity and independence of national human rights institutions, including the Lesotho Human Rights Commission, to ensure full compliance with the Paris Principles (Armenia);
- 136.44 Expedite the operationalization of an independent National Human Rights Commission (Malaysia);
- 136.45 Accelerate efforts to finalize the operationalization of an independent National Human Rights Institution (Morocco);
- 136.46 Support the full operationalization of the National Human Rights Institution, including by ensuring adequate financial and human resources (Ireland);
- 136.47 Take the necessary measures to fully operationalize its National Human Rights Commission, ensuring it complies with the Paris Principles (Portugal);
- 136.48 Take further measures to ensure that the National Human Rights Commission complies with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) (Qatar);

- 136.49 Consider establishing a National Human Rights Institution in line with the Paris Principles (Nepal);
- 136.50 Expedite the establishment of an independent National Human Rights Commission, which will be instrumental in safeguarding human rights, protecting individuals, and promoting awareness to reform (United Republic of Tanzania);
- 136.51 Progress in the creation of a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Latvia);
- 136.52 Adopt the law establishing the national human rights institution, in line with the Paris Principles (Uruguay);
- 136.53 Finalize the establishment of a national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Australia);
- 136.54 Establish a National Human Rights Institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Côte d'Ivoire);
- 136.55 Ensure the full independence of justice institutions and oversight bodies, and create a National Human Rights Commission (Estonia);
- 136.56 Consider taking measures to combat discrimination on the basis of gender, sex and disability among others (India);
- 136.57 Continue with efforts to promote gender equality (Malawi);
- 136.58 Intensify efforts to improve quality education and non-discrimination between genders (Iraq);
- 136.59 Ensure that digital access is inclusive and equitable, and tackle the gender digital divides (Estonia);
- 136.60 Intensify its education and awareness-raising efforts about the cause of albinism and the care of people with albinism (Burkina Faso);
- 136.61 Continue its efforts to combat stigma and discrimination against persons with albinism, in particular as regards access to healthcare, education and employment (Gabon);
- 136.62 Abolish the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire) (Iceland);
- 136.63 Take all necessary measures to formally abolish the death penalty while continuing to apply a de facto moratorium on executions (Slovenia);
- 136.64 Adopt all necessary measures to formally abolish the death penalty while maintaining a de facto moratorium on executions, and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Spain);
- 136.65 Start all necessary steps to introduce a de jure moratorium on capital executions with a view to fully abolishing the death penalty, including by ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Italy);
- 136.66 Establish a de jure moratorium on executions and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ireland);
- 136.67 Consider the establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty with a view to its complete abolishment (Marshall Islands);
- 136.68 Adopt measures towards the abolition of the death penalty (Chile);
- 136.69 Abolish the death penalty and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);

- 136.70 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland) (Germany) (Ukraine);**
- 136.71 **Consider acceding to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Namibia);**
- 136.72 **Reconsider ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Uruguay);**
- 136.73 **Criminalize torture in accordance with the Convention against Torture and ensure thorough and independent investigations into all incidents of police brutality, including those occurring during student and labour protests (Costa Rica);**
- 136.74 **Adopt measures to investigate and prosecute cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil);**
- 136.75 **Adopt specific legislation against torture and repeal any legal provisions authorizing corporal punishment, particularly in schools (Cabo Verde);**
- 136.76 **Adopt national legislation to criminalize torture in line with the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Marshall Islands);**
- 136.77 **Adopt specific anti-torture legislation and take urgent measures to prevent and punish torture and ill-treatment in places of detention (Gambia);**
- 136.78 **Further strengthen national anti-torture legislation (Georgia);**
- 136.79 **Address police and military violence, by establishing an independent judicial mechanism to review cases of excessive use of force, torture, abuse of prisoners, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and arrests, and extrajudicial killings (Canada);**
- 136.80 **Implement measures to prevent and eliminate the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers, and to guarantee the investigation of any reported cases of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment, extrajudicial killings or enforced disappearances (Portugal);**
- 136.81 **Take measures to ensure accountability for those responsible for human rights violations, particularly among law enforcement and the police (Libya);**
- 136.82 **Prevent and eliminate the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers (Colombia);**
- 136.83 **Strengthen prevention against violence in penitentiary establishments (Mali);**
- 136.84 **Expand the competences and resources of the Police Complaints Authority to increase the legitimacy of the State's monopoly on the use of force (Germany);**
- 136.85 **Bolster measures to improve conditions of detention and ensure that they comply with the Nelson Mandela Rules (South Africa);**
- 136.86 **Implement measures to alleviate prison overcrowding through inclusive strategies, policy reforms and organizational adjustments (United Republic of Tanzania);**
- 136.87 **Continue to combat corruption with zero tolerance (China);**

- 136.88 Take convincing measures to fight impunity through investigations free from political intervention, and consequent and transparent prosecution, and by reducing the duration of court proceedings (Germany);
- 136.89 Progress the approval of reforms to ensure the full independence of judicial institutions and oversight bodies (Ireland);
- 136.90 Take specific measures to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system (South Sudan);
- 136.91 Prioritize increasing the national budget dedicated to the administration of the legal system in order to provide the judicial system with the necessary financial and human resources to rapidly and effectively operate (Congo);
- 136.92 Investigate and prosecute violations and abuses of the right to freedom of expression (Australia);
- 136.93 Guarantee the right of expression and assembly, also by investigating any reported case of excessive use of force, extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance (Italy);
- 136.94 Strengthen legal protection for freedom of the press to guarantee a safe environment for journalists and media workers (Indonesia);
- 136.95 Create an enabling environment for civil society, among others by ensuring that the computer crime and cybersecurity bill 2024 will not have disproportionate effects for civil society and ensuring that online freedom of expression and access to information are protected (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 136.96 Consider amending legislation to set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years (Zambia);
- 136.97 Amend legislation to set the minimum age for marriage at 18 (Chile);
- 136.98 Set the minimum age for marriage at 18 years (Colombia);
- 136.99 Amend the necessary legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is 18, as recommended by UNESCO (Mauritius);
- 136.100 Take measures for the effective implementation of the 2024 law on the administration of property and inheritance, which provides for equal inheritance rights regardless of the gender of the heirs (Switzerland);
- 136.101 Take practical measures to prohibit citizens from all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons (Ukraine);
- 136.102 Continue collaboration with the relevant international agencies to strengthen policies and strategies to eradicate trafficking in persons (Guyana);
- 136.103 Continue efforts to implement approved national plans to combat human trafficking (Iraq);
- 136.104 Continue its efforts to eradicate trafficking in persons (Burundi);
- 136.105 Continue efforts in the fight against human trafficking and the trafficking of minors (Georgia);
- 136.106 Continue efforts to combat human trafficking, especially in women and children (Egypt);
- 136.107 Intensify efforts to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour (Uruguay);
- 136.108 Intensify the fight against human trafficking, especially child trafficking, in accordance with the Child Protection and Welfare Act (Djibouti);
- 136.109 Improve the effectiveness of the Family Court in enforcing legislation against domestic violence and trafficking in persons (Canada);

136.110 Consider instituting mandatory human rights education and training for law enforcement and judicial personnel to equip them with the necessary tools to effectively investigate and prosecute human trafficking cases (Philippines);

136.111 Continue providing human rights training to the police law enforcement officials to adequately respond to trafficking incidents (Serbia);

136.112 Endeavour to provide sufficient resources for the effective operationalization of the trafficking in persons data collection system to support evidence-based policymaking (Philippines);

136.113 Strengthen national social protection systems to better support vulnerable populations, with attention to digital tools and sustainable financing (Viet Nam);

136.114 Pursue efforts to implement the National Social Protection Strategy, including through the revision of the National Information System for Assistance (Morocco);

136.115 Continue to invest in the agricultural sector, with much attention to irrigation infrastructure and well-developed agro-industries, as well as the expansion of sustainable nutrition and food security programmes (Ghana);

136.116 Redouble efforts to improve and extend nutritional and sustainable food security programmes across the entire national territory (Congo);

136.117 Continue strengthening food security programmes by enhancing climate adaptation strategies and increasing agricultural resilience (Ethiopia);

136.118 Continue collaboration with the relevant international agencies to strengthen policies and strategies to address food and nutrition security (Guyana);

136.119 Continue the efforts to secure the right to safe drinking water and sanitation services, especially in rural areas (Tunisia);

136.120 Continue to strengthen its efforts to improve access to safe drinking water and sanitation for its people, especially in rural areas (Singapore);

136.121 Provide communities affected by the Lesotho Highlands Water Project with adequate compensation, and access to related electricity, employment and educational opportunities (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

136.122 Continue to implement poverty alleviation measures to benefit the people (China);

136.123 Continue ongoing measures for reduction of extreme poverty, food insecurity and unemployment (India);

136.124 Consider adopting a comprehensive and integrated approach to addressing poverty, which remains a key challenge impacting the education sector (Bhutan);

136.125 Future initiatives to expand access to potable water and sanitation continue to address disparities in access between rural and urban communities (Eritrea);

136.126 Fully implement the Occupational Safety and Health Act 2024 (Switzerland);

136.127 Strengthen efforts to improve access to basic healthcare services for all children, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups in rural areas (South Sudan);

- 136.128 Strengthen efforts to improve access to basic healthcare services for all children, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups (Eswatini);
- 136.129 Improve access to basic healthcare services for all children, women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalized groups, especially in rural areas (Malaysia);
- 136.130 Strengthen efforts to improve access to basic healthcare services for children, women and persons with disabilities (Maldives);
- 136.131 Strengthen efforts to improve access to primary healthcare for all children (Qatar);
- 136.132 Strengthen access to adequate healthcare, particularly for women and children (Cameroon);
- 136.133 Continue to reduce maternal and child mortality and morbidity, particularly in rural and remote areas, by promoting sexual and reproductive health and rights and international cooperation (Thailand);
- 136.134 Continue the efforts to strengthen maternal and child healthcare and ensure reproductive health services for all women, particularly in rural areas (Tunisia);
- 136.135 Strengthen non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including affordable contraception, to improve the maternal mortality and infant mortality rates (Vanuatu);
- 136.136 Ensure access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services (Iceland);
- 136.137 Continue its efforts to significantly reduce the infant and child mortality rate linked to preventable causes, such as the high prevalence of malnutrition, food insecurity and stunting (Burkina Faso);
- 136.138 Strengthen efforts to reduce maternal mortality, by improving access to quality pre- and post-natal care, particularly in rural areas (The Bahamas);
- 136.139 Strengthen access to quality healthcare, with the aim of reducing the maternal and infant mortality rates to acceptable levels (Cabo Verde);
- 136.140 Redouble efforts to combat maternal mortality and improve access to quality healthcare, especially for rural populations (Djibouti);
- 136.141 Continue improving maternal and newborn healthcare services by enhancing mobile health clinics and expanding immunization coverage (Jordan);
- 136.142 Ensure access to HIV education, treatment and prevention, pre-exposure prophylaxis and HIV self-testing kits, and develop outreach activities to ensure inclusion and confidentiality (Switzerland);
- 136.143 Expand access to HIV education, treatment and prevention, access to pre-exposure prophylaxis, HIV testing kits, and community-based outreach, especially to vulnerable groups (Guyana);
- 136.144 Continue to invest in HIV healthcare, including advocacy and sensitization of the masses to address the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS (Uganda);
- 136.145 Continue the efforts for enhancing access to healthcare services, particularly for HIV/AIDS care, with a view to achieving the 95-95-95 targets by 2025 (India);
- 136.146 Continue improving and supporting health programmes (Mauritania);
- 136.147 Guarantee safe, legal and effective access to abortion and post-abortion care across the country (Iceland);

- 136.148 Further consolidate efforts to enhance access to quality education for all (Nepal);
- 136.149 Provide sufficient funds and subsidies to ensure children access to preschool, secondary and higher education, and take special measures to ensure that children remain in schools, especially in rural areas (South Sudan);
- 136.150 Continue to expand budget allocations for early childhood education and disability-inclusive programmes to ensure equitable access for all children (Ethiopia);
- 136.151 Take further steps to increase school enrolment and eliminate school dropout to ensure the right to education for all children, especially in rural areas (Indonesia);
- 136.152 Continue to implement initiatives in support of the right to education, dedicated to higher education, and annual exhibitions of basic vocational guidance for lower levels (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 136.153 Continue its efforts to ensure at least 12 years of free primary education (Mauritius);
- 136.154 Continue to take measures to remove barriers to children's access to primary education, such as school fees, transport and cultural factors (Sierra Leone);
- 136.155 Consider increasing the budget allocation for education with a view to providing free secondary education (Sierra Leone);
- 136.156 Enhance access to education for all children, especially girls and children with disabilities, by addressing remaining barriers related to affordability and social stigma (Cyprus);
- 136.157 Enhance access to inclusive and quality education, particularly for children with disabilities and those in remote areas (Viet Nam);
- 136.158 Enshrine in the Constitution the right to education for all and maintain and strengthen measures to combat school dropout, taking into account the root causes that affect both girls and boys (Cabo Verde);
- 136.159 Prioritize the increase of investment in education, particularly in rural and marginalized areas (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 136.160 Consider adopting innovative mechanisms to ensure long-term sustainable financing of the education sector (Sierra Leone);
- 136.161 Increase investment in inclusive education to ensure full access for children with disabilities and those in remote communities (The Bahamas);
- 136.162 Continue to promote an inclusive education system that ensures that children with disabilities have equal access to quality education in mainstream schools (Mozambique);
- 136.163 Implement a strategy to support children from the ebaPhuti and Xhosa peoples to access educational resources in their Indigenous languages (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 136.164 Continue to implement the Climate Adaptation Solutions Project to address the impact of climate change and foster a green economy (Cuba);
- 136.165 Continue efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change, including on food security, and further strengthen the right to access to food (Lebanon);
- 136.166 Continue national policies and programmes aimed at environmental protection and addressing the risks and impacts of climate change, including those related to the livelihoods of local communities (Sudan);

- 136.167 Continue efforts to ensure an inclusive approach to climate change adaptation measures, promoting the meaningful participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups (Marshall Islands);
- 136.168 Build on ongoing efforts with international partners to strengthen climate-resilient agriculture and improve rural livelihoods (The Bahamas);
- 136.169 Continue and expand climate resilience programmes by securing long-term funding, integrating locally led adaptation strategies and ensuring the meaningful participation of women and girls, youth and vulnerable communities in planning and leadership (Costa Rica);
- 136.170 Advance climate resilience in rural communities through community-based disaster preparedness and sustainable food security initiatives (Viet Nam);
- 136.171 Enhance climate resilience in communities, with a focus on addressing food insecurity by improving sustainable agriculture, and integrating climate-smart practices with support from development partners (Samoa);
- 136.172 Take appropriate measures to support inclusive development by implementing policies that empower women and youth in national development efforts (Uganda);
- 136.173 Continue to implement public policies to guarantee the right to development of its people, prioritizing attention to the most vulnerable sectors (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);
- 136.174 Pursue efforts to promote capacities to face catastrophes and climate adaptation (Mauritania);
- 136.175 Expand South-South cooperation to disseminate best practices on social services, healthcare and gender equality (Dominican Republic);
- 136.176 Redouble efforts to ensure the equal representation and participation of women in public and political life (South Africa);
- 136.177 Intensify efforts to legislative and policy reforms to increase women's equal representation and participation in public and political life (Maldives);
- 136.178 Strengthen the implementation of national legislation that protects and safeguards the rights of women, children and vulnerable communities (Zimbabwe);
- 136.179 Develop and enact the requisite legislation and policies to address gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls (Guyana);
- 136.180 Continue to enhance its efforts in combating gender discrimination, as well as gender-based violence (Singapore);
- 136.181 Intensify efforts to promote women's empowerment and harmonize national legislation, particularly with regard to equal opportunities and rights (Kuwait);
- 136.182 Continue the implementation of the Gender and Development Policy 2018–2030 and further mainstream equality between men and women, as well as women's empowerment, in policies, programmes, plans and budgets of all sectors (Lebanon);
- 136.183 Expand skills development programmes, focusing on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education, digital literacy and entrepreneurship for women and girls (Panama);
- 136.184 Facilitate access to social protection schemes for disadvantaged women (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- 136.185 Ensure the effective implementation of the 2022 Law against Domestic Violence, ensuring an end to impunity for gender-based violence and reparation for victims (Spain);

- 136.186 Strengthen the legal framework to effectively implement the law against domestic violence (Colombia);
- 136.187 Implement fully the Counter Domestic Violence Act (2022) (Iceland);
- 136.188 Ensure effective and adequately resourced implementation of the Counter Domestic Violence Act (Cyprus);
- 136.189 Intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, including sexual and domestic violence, through full implementation of the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022 (Indonesia);
- 136.190 Continue to put in place measures to eliminate early child marriages and protect girls from sexual and gender-based violence (Uganda);
- 136.191 Strengthen efforts to combat domestic violence, including through generalizing the establishment of shelters for victims and strengthening the capacities of law enforcement agencies (Morocco);
- 136.192 Ensure the full implementation of the Counter Domestic Violence Act of 2022 to combat all forms of gender-based violence and enhance the protection of the rights of survivors and promote prevention (Kingdom of the Netherlands);
- 136.193 Enact legislation to ensure effective investigation of gender-based violence cases against women and girls and improve the access to justice for the victims (Vanuatu);
- 136.194 Establish a special procedure for complaints from victims of gender-based violence (Canada);
- 136.195 Continue all efforts to combat gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence, and promote women's empowerment (Italy);
- 136.196 Take measures to effectively prevent all forms of discrimination and combat violence against women and girls, also through full implementation of the Gender and Development Policy and the Counter Domestic Violence Act (Latvia);
- 136.197 Extend support services for women and girls in both rural and urban areas across Lesotho, including for survivors of sexual violence (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);
- 136.198 Consider ensuring effective implementation and adequate resourcing of existing laws and policies on gender-based violence, particularly in rural and underserved areas (Armenia);
- 136.199 Make continued efforts to eliminate gender-based violence and promote children's rights through further legal and institutional reinforcement (Republic of Korea);
- 136.200 Continue to strengthen measures to combat gender-based violence, including conducting awareness-raising campaigns for both the public and the private sector on the relevant legislation (Samoa);
- 136.201 Encourage women and girls to report all cases of domestic and sexual violence through awareness campaigns (Botswana);
- 136.202 Continue its efforts to further reduce domestic violence (Burkina Faso);
- 136.203 Ensure the full implementation of the Counter Domestic Violence Act (Philippines);
- 136.204 Reinforce the collection and processing of data on child labour and gender-based violence (Dominican Republic);
- 136.205 Repeal legislation allowing corporal punishment, adopt legislation expressly and clearly prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children

and adults in all settings, and conduct awareness-raising campaigns on the harmful effects of corporal punishment (Togo);

136.206 Enact legislation that explicitly prohibits all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings (Zambia);

136.207 Adopt legislation that explicitly and clearly prohibits all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings (Gabon);

136.208 Enact legislation strictly prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings (Montenegro);

136.209 Repeal legislation allowing for corporal punishment and enact legislation that explicitly prohibits all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings (Namibia);

136.210 Pass laws prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment of children and adolescents (Colombia);

136.211 Conduct awareness-raising campaigns to prohibit all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings (Serbia);

136.212 Take appropriate measures to ensure that the rights of children are respected, including by prohibiting all forms of corporal punishment in the education system and improving conditions of access to education (Islamic Republic of Iran);

136.213 Expedite the enactment process of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act in order to effectively protect children (Botswana);

136.214 Accelerate the adoption of the Children's Protection and Welfare Bill to strengthen the legal framework for safeguarding the rights and welfare of children (Gambia);

136.215 Expedite the enactment of the bill amending the children's protection and welfare act and of the older persons' protection bill (Philippines);

136.216 Continue efforts to implement the draft child protection law and ensure the provision of the necessary resources for its effective implementation (Kuwait);

136.217 Accelerate reforms to the Child Protection and Welfare Act to set the minimum age of marriage at 18, and criminalize child and forced marriage (Mexico);

136.218 Ensure the full implementation of the law on the protection and well-being of children (Costa Rica);

136.219 Strengthen child protection systems and intensify efforts to eradicate child marriage (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

136.220 Take further measures to protect the rights of children, including by combating child, early and forced marriage and by guaranteeing their full access to the right of education (Italy);

136.221 Expand access to education to all children, especially girls and in rural areas, and enact legislation to combat violence against children and child labour (Brazil);

136.222 Expedite the passage into law of the bill amending the Children's Protection and Welfare Act in order to effectively protect children (Türkiye);

136.223 Strengthen the prevention of exploitation and the protection of children, by taking concrete measures against early marriage of young girls and forced child labour (Burundi);

136.224 Adopt laws prohibiting child, early and forced marriage and violence against children (Canada);

136.225 Allocate the necessary resources to child protection services, increase support for sexual and reproductive health education for adolescents, and develop reintegration programmes for pregnant students and young mothers, with a focus on human rights (Costa Rica);

136.226 Continue investing in the agricultural sector, including in irrigation infrastructure and well-developed agro-industries, and expand its sustainable nutrition and food security programmes to ensure that children in all regions, including remote rural areas, can benefit from them (Togo);

136.227 Take steps to eliminate all forms of child labour, including through child protection policies and the enforcement of relevant laws (Thailand);

136.228 Strengthen food security through sustainable and resilient agricultural investments, as well as child nutrition programmes in rural and remote areas (Mexico);

136.229 Continue to invest in and expand its sustainable food security programmes so that children in all regions, including in remote rural areas, can benefit from them (Cameroon);

136.230 Expand sustainable nutrition and food security programmes to benefit children in all districts, including remote rural areas (Panama);

136.231 Continued implementation and close monitoring of the Lesotho Child Grants Programme to ensure that it effectively improves the living standards of orphans and vulnerable children across the country (Eritrea);

136.232 Continue to strengthen the legal and policy framework for the care and protection of older persons (Sudan);

136.233 Continue valuable efforts aimed at protecting and promoting the rights of older persons, including their access to adequate health services (Lebanon);

136.234 Continue to strengthen measures to bolster social security benefits for persons with disabilities, including the disability grant, the dependency allowance and the grant-in-aid (Cuba);

136.235 Bolster efforts to ensure that the health rights of women with disabilities are protected (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);

136.236 Continue to strengthen the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in all national policies, including by facilitating their equal access to employment opportunities and ensuring an accessible work environment (Jordan);

136.237 Decriminalize and legalize same-sex relations between consenting adults (Iceland);

136.238 Consolidate progress on LGBTIQ+ rights with legislation that expressly protects them against discrimination in all areas; repeal the sodomy provision in the Sexual Offences Act of 2003; and establish administrative procedures for the legal recognition of gender identity (Mexico);

136.239 Introduce a transparent administrative self-identification process for legal gender recognition free from intrusive requirements (Iceland);

136.240 Decriminalize sodomy and implement measures to combat stigmatization and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity (Colombia);

136.241 Redouble efforts to combat all forms of stigmatization and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Uruguay);

136.242 Continue taking the necessary measures to prevent and combat discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity in all areas, especially following the adoption of the 2024 Labour Law (Spain);

136.243 Strengthen protection for LGBTI persons, including through policies that guarantee equal treatment and non-discrimination, and access to healthcare and social services, and provide awareness-raising initiatives aimed at reducing stigma and promoting inclusion (Cyprus);

136.244 Adopt and implement a simplified birth registration procedure in order to improve newborns' registration services across the State and to prevent statelessness (Montenegro);

136.245 Amend legislation to ensure universal, free and accessible birth registration, and adequate safeguards against statelessness for children born in Lesotho (Panama);

136.246 Strengthen efforts to address statelessness by improving access to birth registration, social protection and education for individuals without status (Thailand);

136.247 Redouble efforts to ensure the universal, free and accessible registration of births (Colombia).

137. All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Lesotho was headed by Honourable Richard RAMOELETSI, Head of Delegation, Minister of Law and Justice and composed of the following members:

- Adv. Rapelang MOTSIELOA, Alternate Head of Delegation, Honourable Attorney General;
 - Mr. Lira RALEBESE, Delegate, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Law and Justice;
 - H.E. Tšiu KHATHIBE, Delegate, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
 - Mrs. Nthabiseng LELISA, Delegate, Minister Counsellor, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Lesotho, to the United Nations Office at Geneva;
 - Mr. Pheko NTOBANE, Delegate, Assistant Superintendent LCS and member of NMRIF;
 - Adv. Kabelo Justice KELEPA, Delegate, Member of the NMRIF and NUL Human Rights Chair;
 - Ms. Bokang LETHUNYA-KHUTLANG, Delegate, Legal Officer, Human Rights Unit.
-