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**Human Rights Council**

**Sixtieth session**

8 September–3 October 2025

Agenda item 6

**Universal periodic review**

 Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review

 Lesotho

 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 Honourable Richard Ramoeletsi, Head of Delegation, Minister of Law and Justice. 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]](#footnote-2)

 (b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b);[[2]](#footnote-3)

 (c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c).[[3]](#footnote-4)

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Costa Rica, 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, members 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, 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 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. His Excellency the Ambassador introduced the delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho as follows: Honourable Richard Ramoeletsi, Minister of Law and Justice and the Head of the Delegation; Adv. Rapelang Motsieloa, Honourable Attorney General - alternate head of delegation; Mr. Lira Ralebese, Principal Secretary from the Ministry of Law and Justice; and Distinguished experts delegates from the Lesotho Correctional Services, the National Mechanism on Reporting, Implementation and Follow-Up, and the Human Rights Unit of Lesotho.

6. The Honourable Minister of Law and Justice presented Lesotho’s 4th cycle report on the measures being taken on the promotion and protection of human rights which emanated from the 3rd cycle wherein Lesotho received 211 recommendations. In his statement, the Minister shared highlights on key legislative, policy, administrative, programmatic and other measures geared towards promotion and protection of human rights and progress in implementing the received recommendations. He demonstrated that the report was compiled by the National Mechanism on Reporting, Implementation and Follow-up (NMRIF), established in August 2021 through a cabinet decision. The report was then circulated to all stakeholders for further inputs. The work of the NMRIF was to oversee, among others, the reporting and make follow ups in disseminating and implementing recommendations of all international and regional human rights.

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 for domestication of all international human rights treaties which Lesotho has ratified.

8. The Honorary Minister also spoke about issues relating to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and food production. He lamented that Lesotho has made strides by establishing legal frameworks, promoting conservation efforts, and addressing specific environmental challenges to guide environmental protection and management. The country also provides for adequate sanitation, through a combination of infrastructure development, community engagement, and policy initiatives. To improve food security, enhance local livelihoods, and ensure a resilient agricultural sector. Lesotho employs 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 has taken steps to ensure one year of free primary education aligning with SDG4 through the expansion of reception classes in primary schools and improve improving the quality of early childhood care and development learning.

10. The Minister also highlighted issues related to improvement of prison conditions. These improvements aim to align Lesotho prisons with international standards.

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

12. It partners with the labour inspectors to detect child labour and routine inspections are conducted to monitor the progress.

13. The Honourable Minister submitted that the Government has recently promulgated laws that prohibit discrimination on the basis of gender and sexual orientation. These include: the Labour Act 2024, Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021, Counter-Domestic Violence Act 2022 and the Harmonisation of Customary Widows Act 2022. To address discrimination against women under customary law, Lesotho enacted the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act 2024. Labour Act also proscribe child labour, exploitation and child Trafficking complementing the amended Anti-Trafficking in Persons’ Act 2011 which was amended to redefining the term trafficking in persons and to remove an option of a fine.

14. To improve investment conditions in the country, the Minister asserted that Lesotho adopts a non-partisan and transparent fight against corruption.

15. The Minister also referred to Policy for Older Persons 2014, now under review, and the 2018 Strategic Plan for Older Persons. The point he made was that these policy frameworks implement the NSDP II extended and international standards on ageing. To combat ageism the policies, promote awareness raising, provide social and health support, and address the root causes of negative attitudes towards older persons. These include training for media houses on responsible reporting.

16. The Minister stated that Lesotho has made progress to improve healthcare access for sexual violence survivors. This includes implementation of guidelines for medico legal care and providing emergency contraception to ensure they receive appropriate medical attention.

17. To provide healthcare services for people living with HIV/AIDS, with support from EGPAF and PEPFAR amongst others, the Government implements a policy framework on HIV/AIDS through a multi-faceted approach. This includes comprehensive treatment and care, strengthened community-based services, and ongoing advocacy and research.

18. The Minister concluded by highlighting that irrespective of the above endeavours, Lesotho was still beset with challenges such as poverty, high level of unemployment, food-insecurity and high prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS, amongst others, and these inhibit 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 Lesotho’s efforts 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 Lesotho’s progress in ratifying human rights treaties and the adoption of the harmonization of the rights of customary widows with the legal capacity of married persons act, the persons with disabilities equity act and the counter domestic violence act together with the inclusion of protections related to the LGBTQI plus employee rights into the labour act.

22. South Sudan commended Lesotho for making significant strides towards ratifying all nine co-international human rights treaties and some optional protocols there too and further applaud Lesotho for the milestone progress 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 for the important laws adopted that bolster the rights of women and girls with respect to child marriage and inheritance.

24. The Sudan praised the promulgation of a new law on people with disabilities and the law on labour as well as the adoption of restorative justice system and the alternatives to prison and the committees to fight corruption.

25. Switzerland welcomed Lesotho’s delegation and made recommendations.

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

27. Togo noted Lesotho’s progress in implementing its Food and Nutrition Strategy and the detailed 2019-2023 Action Plan.

28. Tunisia commended Lesotho for adopting the second National Social Protection Strategy (2021-2031) and the Child Protection Act.

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

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

31. Ukraine commended Lesotho’s reforms advancing 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, protect communities near the Highlands Water Project, provide adequate compensation, employment benefits and educational opportunities, safeguard women from sexual exploitation and improve early education for ebaPhuti and Xhosa children.

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

34. Uruguay praised the efforts in following up on the recommendations and follow-up through the national reporting mechanism as well as progress towards ratifying nine international fundamental human rights treaties and some of the optional protocols. It mentioned Lesotho’s progress on equality, non-discrimination, and advancing LGBTIQ+ rights through legislative reforms.

35. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the Equity for Persons with Disabilities Act and the 2024 Child Protection and Welfare Amendment Bill.

36. Viet Nam commended the Labour Act 2024, disability protection efforts, education investment, and Lesotho’s commitment to gender violence and climate challenges.

37. Zambia commended the adoption of a bill establishing a national human rights institution by the national assembly.

38. Vanuatu commended Lesotho for its progress, particularly the 2024 Inheritance Act, which repealed discriminatory practices against girls' inheritance rights.

39. Zimbabwe commended the legal and institutional reforms and efforts in domesticating ratified human rights instruments 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 implementing and expediting the passage of the Labour Act 2024 and the National Human Rights Commission Amendment Bill. Australia was concerned that progress on these legislative reforms has been slow and encourages Lesotho to expedite their passage and implementation.

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 programs through the national social protection strategy. Bahamas commended Lesotho’s efforts to expand access to safe drinking water under the Lowlands Water Development Project and initiatives undertaken to build resilience against climate change.

43. Bhutan welcomed the establishment of the National Climate Change Committee and efforts addressing gender-based violence, protecting women and children, and improving 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 the enactment of the persons with disability equity act 2021 and the administration of states and inheritance act of 2024 recognizing rights for children regardless of their birth circumstances. Brazil also praised the country for the advances in combating AIDS. That progress should be complemented with improved access to basic healthcare services for all children, women, 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 progress regarding women's equality, including their representation in decision-making bodies, 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 Honourable Minister of Lesotho gave the Attorney General an opportunity to respond, addressing the issues including the questions on death penalty, rights of the child, persons with disabilities, older persons and right to health, among others.

51. On the issue of the death penalty, the Attorney General mentioned that Lesotho is a de facto abolitionist. He echoed this because as much as the death penalty remains in our books of statute, it has not been carried out since 1995.

52. The Attorney General highlighted that the Government holds issues relating to rights of persons with disabilities as a top priority. In this regard, the Disability Equity Act of 2021 ensures accessible and merit-based employment for people with disabilities.

53. On the issue of right to education, the Attorney General indicated that public schools receive teaching and learning materials, school feeding, and some teacher training as support from the Government.

54. The Attorney General added that the Department of Home Affairs, with support from IOM, carried out awareness campaigns on birth registrations and cross-border crimes.

55. The Government through National Identity and Civil Registry is taking steps to ensure that legal identity is provided for all. In April 2025, the Government launched the Digital Birth Registration system to ensure that children’s rights to identity is recognised from the moment they are born, with a view to address statelessness.

56. The Attorney General added that to avert the crisis of child labour, the Government has developed an Integrated National Action Plan on the Elimination of Child Labour 2024-2029 with a view to strengthening and coordinating all the national efforts geared towards elimination of child labour.

57. The government has also established within the Ministry of Police the anti-trafficking and migrant control unit as elucidated in the opening statement. Law enforcement officials were trained to deal specifically with child labour. Elimination of slavery and servitude, the anti-trafficking in persons Act of 2011 has been amended in 2021 with a view to redefining the term trafficking in persons to remove an option of a fine for persons convicted of the offense of trafficking in persons.

58. On the right to health, the Attorney General added that other strides include improvements in delivery care, maternal and infant mortality ratios which have declined. In order to guarantee physical accessibility of health care services, including sexual and reproductive health services for women from disadvantaged backgrounds and those women living in rural areas, the government has the key as the key provider of health services has developed community-based centres in mountainous and hard-to-reach places.

59. The government's efforts are supplemented by the private sector such as the Christian Health Association of Lesotho and NGOs who also provide hospital and clinic-based health services in Lesotho in remote areas of Lesotho.

60. Women living in the rural areas were able to access services from these institutions. In places where there were no community centres, the government provides mobile clinics to reach people.

61. Canada welcomed the 2024 revision of the Labour Act prohibiting gender-based and sexual orientation discrimination.

62. Chile welcomed the approval of the Persons with Disability Equity Act 2021.

63. China commended Lesotho’s cooperation 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 national report.

65. The Congo welcomed Lesotho’s progress aligning laws with human rights standards ringing its national legislation into line with ratified international instruments on human rights mentioning the law on discrimination vis-a-vis persons with disabilities and the recognition for children born outside of wedlock, recognizing their entitlement to inherit.

66. Costa Rica was grateful to Lesotho for its report and greeted their commitment to climate resilience including mitigating and adoption plans and the inclusion of remote communities, women and children in these 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’s for incorporating into the domestic legal order its commitments in various international human rights instruments, referring to the adoption of the law on equity for persons with disabilities 2021/21, the law to harmonize the rights of widows in the traditional marriage, the rights of married individuals pursuant to that 2022, the inheritance law of 2024 and the labour law from 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 for advancing and protecting the fundamental human rights principles and values through a robust national legal framework, national strategic development plan and policies.

71. The Democratic Republic of the Congo praised Lesotho for its efforts since its last UPR especially in the legislative level with the adoption trailer of the 2021 law on equality for persons with disabilities and the draft law in 2024 on modifications to law on childhood wellbeing and protection in a constructive spirit.

72. Djibouti welcomed the commitments to promote human rights and noted with satisfaction measures taken to implement recommendations accepted during the last UPR especially through various institutional and normative reform

73. The Dominican Republic highlighted the approval of the law against domestic violence of 2022, bolstering child protection with reforms that penalize early marriage and significant progress 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, development of programs 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 program aimed at supporting poor and vulnerable households.

76. Estonia noted efforts to strengthen the rights of women and children but expressed concern about high school dropout rates.

77. Eswatini commended steps undertaken 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 campaigns.

80. The Gambia commended Lesotho for ratifying all core human rights treaties and progress made to adopt 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 Lesotho’s official UPR report 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 the adoption of legislation to give effect to Treaty-body obligations and harmonization of rights of customary widows with the illegal capacity of married persons act 2023, 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 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 Lesotho’s efforts to advance human rights domestically; but regretted that Lesotho had not abolished the death penalty and noted that Lesotho lacks a national human rights institution in line with the Paris principles.

91. Italy commended Lesotho’s recent adoption of the “Labour Act” and of the “Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act”.

92. Jordan commended the presentation of Lesotho’s national report 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 Lesotho’s human rights obligations.

95. The Principal Secretary of Lesotho took the floor and explained the measures undertaken to address overcrowding in detention facilities. The newly renovated facilities have running water and water systems for toilets. Despite being faced with poverty, Lesotho ensures the inmates' right to food by providing inmates with three meals per day.

96. On the issue of excessive use of force by the security forces, the prohibition of torture and elimination of excessive use of force by security forces, and assault in prisons that occurred in 2023, the Ombudsman investigated and recommended further investigations. Concerning handling cases of members of police in breach of code of conduct, such an excessive use of force, the LNPS has the inspectorate on complaints and discipline. In the year 2024, 2025, 23 cases have been held, have been handled.

97. On the issue of right to clean healthy and sustainable environment, with a view to addressing the right to a clean healthy and sustainable environment, Lesotho focused on protected areas and community-based conservation initiatives to balance conservation and development. The establishment of national parks and reserves to protect valuable habitats and endangered species are in place to safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity. The Government has developed a project to restore degraded watersheds through emergency rehabilitation measures and the implementation of catchment management plans.

98. On the issue of ending hunger and achieving food security, farmers have been encouraged to use drought-tolerant crop varieties to withstand climate change impacts, utilizing technology to address nutrient depletion, and promote soil health through practices like cover cropping and organic matter application. The Government is continuing to implement block farming programs to increase agricultural productivity.

99. Efforts on safeguarding access to safe water and adequate sanitation key strategies include construction and maintenance of water treatment facilities, distribution of water through networks, building sanitation infrastructure such as latrines, and educating communities about hygiene practices.

100. On the issue of anticorruption, Lesotho has the directorate on corruption and economic offenses, DCO, as the primary anticorruption body. The government of Lesotho continues to demonstrate commitment to root out corruption by affording more than 200% allocation to the anticorruption body increase for the second year, for the second fiscal year in a row. Additionally, Lesotho has made progress on budget transparency and e-citizenship, integrating anticorruption into school curricula and promoting ethical conduct among young people. On the prohibition of torture, in respect of prohibition of torture, Lesotho has made significant progress in domesticating the convention against torture. The penal code act domesticates the convention in part under sections 95 and 96, which criminalize war crimes and crimes against humanity.

101. There are steps to draft an anti-torture legislation, which shall ensure retrace for victims of torture including compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction and guarantees of nonrepetitional.

102. Lebanon appreciated Lesotho’s efforts in protecting the rights of persons with albinism and persons with disabilitieswith 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 provides a legal framework to advance 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 Lesotho’s efforts to implement the “Climate Change Policy of 2017” aiming at improving land rehabilitation and food production.

107. Mali congratulated Lesotho for the opening of new schools which ensure that no children are left behind, including children with special needs. Mali welcomed gender equality and policies 2018-2030 incorporating equality of gender and empowerment of women in policies, programs, plans and budgets in all sectors.

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

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

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

111. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the nine fundamental 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 on torture and ill-treatment and excessive use of force by law enforcement officials and lack of accountability.

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

114. Mozambique thanked Lesotho for the efforts undertaken 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 by law enforcement officers during peaceful demonstrations and lack of effective investigations and prosecutions.

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

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

120. Portugal commended Lesotho for the adoption of the Counter Domestic Violence Act and for the ratification of three ILO Conventions.

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

122. The Republic of Korea commended took note with appreciation of Lesotho’s comprehensive efforts 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 equality of rights of disabilities with national legislation brought in line with international conventions.

124. Rwanda commended Lesotho for the Labour Act of 2024 that provided a comprehensive employment relations framework, promoting fair labour practices as well as the occupational safety and health act of 2024 that regulates safety and health at both private and public workplaces.

125. Samoa recognized the initiatives undertaken in addressing the climate change through the implementation of its Climate Change Policy, and establishment of the National Climate Change Committee.

126. Serbia commended Lesotho dedication to the UPR's process to improve its legal and institutional framework in line with the international human rights standards and the adoption of persons with disability equality act 2021 that ensures accessibility to employment for people with disabilities.

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

128. Singapore commended Lesotho’s efforts in improving access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in rural areas.

129. The Ambassador of Lesotho explained proffered that Lesotho’s development agenda is centred on the National Strategic Development Plan II (NSDP II) extended. This plan aimed for sustainable and inclusive economic growth, good governance, and poverty reduction.

130. He averred that in 2022 Lesotho compiled a report on Voluntary National Review on Implementation of SDGs and achievements made on the set targets, emphasising the need for more engagement on SDG 5-gender equality; SDG 1-zero poverty; SDG 3-good health and well-being; SDG 4-quality education; and SDG 8- decent work and economic growth.

131. The Ambassador spoke about the operationalisation of the Human Rights Commission that is Paris Principles compliant. He highlighted that the 10th Amendment to the Constitution Bill of 2024, is at an advanced stage before Parliament. He stated that the Government has committed a budget for the Commission. The budget will be disbursed to the Commission to enable it to effectively discharge its mandate upon operationalization. He mentioned that additional support from the Peace Building Fund for capacity building to the Commission has also been secured.

132. To curb discrimination against LGBTQI+ community, the Ambassador indicated that the Government in collaboration with Civil Society Organisations embarked on activities to sensitise the high-level government officials on building tolerance.

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

134. Pertaining to gender-based violence, the Ambassador said the Government has the plan to establish a multi-Purpose Centre which will provide a supportive environment for holistic recovery, going beyond basic shelter. The Ministry of Health, with the support of UNFPA, is working to improve the skills of healthcare professionals in identifying and assisting survivors of sexual abuse.

135. To create employment for youth, the ambassador indicated that the Government partnering with UNDP launched the Unipod. This is a technology focused facility aimed at assisting the youth by incubating their ideas and projects. Also, there is an innovation hub called Sebabatso youth innovation. This is a business focused project where youth put up their projects for testing addressing unemployment amongst youth through the innovation and use of technology. The government has also set aside the budget for the youth apprenticeship program. This is a system where youth fresh from the University who do not have work experience, get contracted for two years to work in the areas of choice for them to 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 legislations and policies with the provisions of ratified international instruments especially to 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 to enshrine 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 the OHCHR and other relevant organisations to fulfill its Treaty-bodies reporting obligations (Guyana);**

136.15 **Continue to engage in constructive cooperation with the treaty bodies, the HRC 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 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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 programs 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 realisation of children and women’s rights (Rwanda);**

136.31 **Expedite the process of establishing and operationalizing of 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 Principle 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 **Finalise operational modalities of an independent National Human Rights Commission (Georgia);**

136.42 **Accelerate establishment of National Human Rights Institution that is independent and adequately resourced so it can implement 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 operationalisation 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 NHRC complies with the Principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (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 **Finalise 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 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 amongst 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 raising awareness 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 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 on 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 the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which aims 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 labor protests (Costa Rica);**

136.74 **Adopt measures to investigate and prosecute the 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, 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 amongst 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 (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

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 necessary legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage is 18, as recommended by the UNESCO (Mauritius);**

136.100 **Take measures to 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 fight against the human trafficking and 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 labor and all forms of child labor (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 rights human trafficking cases (Philippines);**

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

136.112 **Endeavor to provide sufficient resources for the effective operationalization of the trafficking in persons data collection system to support evidence-based policy making (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 programs across the entire national territory (Congo);**

136.117 **Continue strengthening food security programs 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 the 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 employment (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 of 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 health care services for children, women and persons with disabilities (Maldives);**

136.131 **Strengthen efforts to improve access to primary health care 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 (Bahamas);**

136.139 **Strengthen access to quality healthcare, with the aim of reducing maternal and infant mortality rates to acceptable levels (Cabo Verde);**

136.140 **Redouble efforts to combat maternal mortality and improve access to quality health care, 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 the HIV health care 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 achieve 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, to take special measures to ensure that children remain in schools, especially in rural arears (South Sudan);**

136.150 **Continue to expand budget allocations for early childhood education and disability-inclusive programs to ensure equitable access for all children (Ethiopia);**

136.151 **Take further steps to increase school enrollment and eliminate school dropouts 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 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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 (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

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 (Bahamas);**

136.162 **Continue to promote an inclusive education system that ensures 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 of 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 programs 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 (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 the 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 (Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of));**

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 safeguard the rights of women, children and the 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 combatting 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, programs, 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 (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

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 rights of survivors and promote prevention (Netherlands (Kingdom of the));**

136.193 **Enact a 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 private sector on relevant legislations (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 labor 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 education system and improving conditions of access to education (Iran (Islamic Republic of));**

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 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 wellbeing 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 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 labor (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 to expand its sustainable nutrition and food security programs 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 enforcement of relevant laws (Thailand);**

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

136.229 **Continue to invest in and expand its sustainable food security programs so that children in all regions, including in remote rural areas, can benefit from it (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 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 Labor Law (Spain);**

136.243 **Strengthen protection for LGBTI persons including through policies that guarantee equal treatment and non-discrimination, 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 procedure of birth registration in order to improve new-born’s registration services across the state and 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.

1. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/2. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A/HRC/WG.6/49/LSO/3. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)