**UPR35**

**Canada’s recommendations for Lesotho’s UPR**

**22 January 2020**

Thank you, Madam President.

Canada thanks Lesotho for its presentation and welcomes its commitment to end child marriage by the end of the year 2020.

Canada recommends that Lesotho:

1. Develop and implement public awareness campaigns against domestic violence and ensure the draft *Lesotho Domestic Violence* Bill is passed and implemented.
2. Amend or repeal section *18(4)(c)* of the Constitution of Lesotho, which allows for discrimination against women with respect to adoption, marriage, divorce, burial, and devolution of property on death.
3. Enact legislation that ensures freedom of the press.
4. Strengthen mechanisms to combat child labour by amending the legislative framework to ensure all children under the age of 18 are protected from all forms of forced labour and hazardous employment conditions.
5. Allocate additional resources to address overcrowding, inadequate sanitary conditions and lack of medical care in prisons and detention centres.

Canada continues to be concerned about the legislative framework allowing for discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Canada also has concerns regarding the use of force by law enforcement and encourages Lesotho to make concerted efforts to offer training programs to police officers on the prevention of arbitrary arrests and torture. In addition, Canada encourages Lesotho to allocate additional resources to improve access to potable water and improve sanitation.