**Statement by H.E. Pendapala A. Naanda, Ambassador/Permanent Representative, during the Interactive Dialogue on the Universal Periodic Review of the Kingdom of Lesotho, 22 January 2020**

1. **Thank you, Madam President,**
2. Namibia welcomes the delegation of Lesotho and thank them for preparing a comprehensive national report.
3. **Madam President,**
4. Notwithstanding the recent challenging and turbulent times in Lesotho, the Government has shown real commitment to promote and protect the human rights of its Citizens. Among other things, Namibia commends Lesotho for its efforts to advance the economic and social rights of women as well as the rights of children. We welcome the ongoing campaign which was launched in 2017 as part of the Government’s efforts to eliminate child marriages.
5. In order to further enhance the rights of women and children, Namibia makes the following three recommendations for consideration by Lesotho:
	1. Speed up the process of enacting the Domestic Violence Bill and support its immediate implementation;
	2. Amend legislative provisions which discriminate against women and girls in areas relating to marriage, inheritance and family;
	3. Increase the legal age of marriage to 18 years for both boys and girls, by amending conflicting legislation, such as the Marriage Act of 1974, which allows girls to marry at 16 years of age.
6. We wish the delegation of Lesotho a successful review.
7. **I thank you, Madam President.**