**Statement delivered by Sumbue ANTAS,**

**Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of Vanuatu to the United Nations and UN Agencies in Geneva**

**35**th **Session of the Working Group of the Universal Periodic Review**

**Review of Lesotho**

**22nd January 2020**

Madame President.

The Vanuatu welcomes the delegation of Lesotho to the UPR and notes the progress the nation has made in upholding tenets of human rights.

We note the adoption of National Strategies and promote human rights, the NSDP II 2018/19 – 2022/23 which covers cross cutting issues like poverty, gender, human rights, HIV/AIDS, disability, children and youth, climate change, and environment. We also appreciate the adoption of Ten-year Gender and Development Policy 2018-2028.

In the spirit of constructive engagement, Vanuatu recommends that Lesotho:

1. Finalize the establishment of the National Human Rights Commission in compliance with Paris Principles;
2. Fully implements the National Climate Change Policy and put in place a comprehensive system to monitor and evaluate its implementation; and
3. Take concrete measures necessary to prevent and combat the abuse of children, including domestic violence and sexual exploitation and abuse.

Vanuatu wishes the delegation of Lesotho a successful UPR.

Thank you Madam President.