LESOTHO'S POLICY PAPER ON CHINA

30 July 2016

Since the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Lesotho and the People's Republic of China, the bilateral relations between these two countries have enjoyed commendable progress. To maintain and further develop its relations with the People's Republic of China has become the foundation and guiding principle of Lesotho's foreign policy. In the face of the profound changes on the world landscape, and bearing in mind the strategic needs of Lesotho's sustainable development, the Government of Lesotho is committed to promoting the Comprehensive Strategic and Cooperative Partnership between Africa and China. On its part, Lesotho will work tirelessly to nurture and further develop its relations with the People's Republic of China. In this regard, the Government of Lesotho states its policy on China as follows:

1. Lesotho will Further Deepen Mutual Political Trust with China.

a) Lesotho firmly adheres to the One China Policy, and recognizes that the Government of the People's Republic of China is the sole lawful Government of China, and that Taiwan is an inalienable part of the Chinese territory. The Lesotho Government calls for the respect and acknowledgement of the "1992 Consensus", which stipulates that the two sides of Taiwan Straits belong to one China. It is the strong belief of the Government of Lesotho that China's peaceful reunification will be realized.

b) It is the strong belief of the Government of Lesotho that Xizang (Tibet) is an inalienable part of China's territory and that Xizang is an autonomous region under the Central Government of China.

c) Lesotho advocates for the territorial and maritime disputes in the South China Sea to be resolved peacefully through friendly consultations and negotiations by parties directly concerned, and commends the efforts made by China to safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

d) Lesotho supports China's endeavor to maintain world peace and regional stability, as well as to safeguard its sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Government of China can rely on the full support of the Government of Lesotho on issues concerning China's core interests.

2. Lesotho will Further Promote Mutually Beneficial Cooperation and Achieve Joint Development with China.

a) The Government of Lesotho highly commends and appreciates China's effort and assistance to Lesotho's social and economic development.

b) The Government of Lesotho will take full advantage of implementing the outcomes of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and further deepen win-win cooperation with China in the areas of trade and investment in order to bring tangible benefits to the Basotho and Chinese people.

c) Lesotho will continuously improve its trade and investment environment in order to attract more investment from China and from other countries.

3. Lesotho Welcomes People-to-people and Cultural Exchanges with China.

a) Lesotho praises and appreciates China's efforts of continuously deepening its people-to people and cultural exchanges with Lesotho.

b) With the aim to further strengthen mutual learning and create a favorable cooperation environment between Lesotho and China, the Government of Lesotho encourages further people-to-people and cultural exchanges between the two countries.

c) Lesotho calls for more exchanges between the youth, women, media, academia, think-tanks and other sectors of the two countries.

4. Lesotho will Continue to Maintain Mutual Assistance with China in the Field of Security.

a) Lesotho appreciates China's efforts in being constructively engaged in resolving the security issues of Africa, and commends China's policy of supporting the Africans to settle African issues in the African way.

b) Lesotho welcomes China's support to build Lesotho's capacity in the areas of peace and security.

5. Lesotho will Cooperate with China in International Affairs.

a) Lesotho appreciates China's efforts in striving for international justice and safeguarding the interests of developing counties.

b) Lesotho calls on the international community to support the African Union on the reform of the Security Council of United Nations, with the Ezulwini Consensus as its foundation. Lesotho welcomes the valuable understanding and support of the Chinese Government in this regard.

c) Lesotho insists that the two countries should maintain their solidarity and strengthen consultation and coordination on international issues for their common interests.