



**Remarks by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Lesotho – Dr. Moeketsi Majoro on the Occasion of the Commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations and its Charter**

**September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Virtual Meeting**

**President of the General Assembly**

**Mr. Secretary General**

**Excellencies**

**Ladies and gentlemen**

Mr. President, at the outset, Lesotho wishes to extend its appreciation to you for organizing this important high-level virtual meeting to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the United Nations (UN).

**Mr. President**

The UN adoption of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which are to be achieved by 2030, is a trajectory to the future we want. This celebration comes at an opportune time labeled “***The Decade of Action***” by the Secretary General. It is a time that, more than ever before, calls for solidarity and unwavering commitment to multilateralism and to the UN. It is thus my fervent hope that in resolving not to leave any one or any country behind, and accelerating the achievement of the 2030 Development Agenda, our respective countries will from now on, find ways of working together. That is the future we want!

**Mr. President**

As we celebrate 75 years since the formation of the United Nations, it is also the right time to reflect on the vital role of international solidarity and collaboration to effectively respond to numerous global challenges and impacts of COVID-19 pandemic, particularly in vulnerable countries in special situations like Lesotho. This situation has exacerbated existing poverty, inequalities and vulnerabilities in our countries, thereby reversing development gains of the past decades. Addressing these multifaceted

challenges requires enhanced partnerships at bilateral, regional and international levels.

**Mr. President,**

The Kingdom of Lesotho further recognizes this important juncture in human history, a time of reflection on the role of the UN in the past 75 years and the future UN we want. As we celebrate this anniversary, my country has substantially advanced the inclusion of women and youth in our national laws, policies and plans. This has been achieved purely through implementation of principles and guidelines as agreed upon by Member States and as enshrined in various international human rights conventions that Lesotho is a state party to. It is also thanks to the UN that my country's National Reforms process is now at the implementation stage.

**Mr. President,**

We cannot achieve the "United Nations we want" without the reform of the highest decision - making body in the UN system, the United Nations Security Council. Taking into account principles, objectives and ideals of the United Nations Charter for a fairer world based on universalism, equity and regional balance, Lesotho firmly believes in the enlargement of the Security Council in both the permanent and non- permanent categories. In today's globalized world, it is indefensible and not comprehensible that decisions which bind us all are left in the hands of a few. Global security is not a privilege and should not be the preserve of a handful.

The Reform of the Security Council should take into account the aspirations of Africa, as stipulated at the Ezulwini Consensus, which has not only received overwhelming support from member states but is without any express objection. Transparency, inclusivity and democracy must inform the work of the entire United Nations System.

In conclusion Mr. President, Lesotho wishes to reaffirm the need for an enhanced multilateral system underpinned by the principles of unity and

solidarity. We therefore look forward to working closely with the rest of the Member States and the UN System.

**I THANK YOU**