



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM  
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
815 Second Avenue  
8th Floor  
New York, NY 10017*

## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**H.E. MR. KELEBONE A. MAOPE  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**DURING THE  
MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM  
ON  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**7 JULY 2015  
NEW YORK**

**Please check against delivery**

**Mr. President,**

At the outset, let me thank you for your efforts in convening this Ministerial Segment of the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on sustainable development under the auspices of the ECOSOC.

The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in June 2012 provided a much needed impetus for accelerating the implementation of sustainable development commitments, and gave clear guidance on the institutional framework for sustainable development at all levels, including the establishment of the High Level Political Forum that replaced the Commission on Sustainable Development. In this context, the Forum will play a decisive role in following up on the implementation of sustainable development commitments and reviewing the progress made beyond 2015. The HLPF will have to play a key oversight role in order to maintain political commitment, provide guidance and make recommendations for further action at the national, regional and global levels.

**Mr. President,**

Lesotho recognizes the intrinsic linkage between poverty eradication and the promotion of sustainable development. We underline the need for a synergic and coherent approach to the post-2015 development agenda that integrates in a balanced manner the three dimensions of sustainable development. This coherent approach involves working towards a single framework and set of goals, universal in nature and applicable to all countries, while taking into account differing national circumstances and respecting national policies and priorities in line with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

We are also satisfied that the institutional structure of sustainable development has been significantly strengthened through the establishment of this Forum whose essential function is to monitor and review the post-2015 development agenda, including sustainable development. In that light, we are looking forward to the regular reviews on the follow-up and implementation that will be done in the HLPF after 2015.

**Mr. President,**

A strong interface between science and policy will be very important for the High-Level Political Forum to establish itself as a Forum from which relevant policy guidance on sustainable development emanates. The global sustainable development report could be an important tool in setting the agenda of the Forum, identifying new challenges and reviewing progress on sustainable development. In that regard, integration should be a high priority for United Nations operational activities in countries. Cooperation among United Nations entities is increasing, but more effort is needed to realize an organization that plans, monitors and evaluates as one. United Nations bodies need to have a consistent message for Governments that integrates the various dimensions of sustainable development and, as far as possible, a common reporting mechanism and set of indicators to measure progress on the sustainable development goals.

Moreover, integrating the economic, social and environmental dimensions is an important tenet of the sustainable development paradigm and to a large extent, will determine the effectiveness of the HLPF. The HLPF should therefore learn from the lessons of the Commission on Sustainable Development and devise appropriate strategies to ensure its adequate delivery on this mandate. This should take into account the ability to attract the participation of stakeholders representing the two dimensions, namely the Government and the private sector, at all implementation levels.

Furthermore, effective mainstreaming of equity and inequality issues, particularly in terms of representation and participation of developing countries, such as least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing states in the HLPF meetings is important in strengthening its legitimacy. While it is important to mobilize adequate resources to sponsor a critical mass of stakeholders to participate in the HLPF meetings, meaningful engagement in terms of the equity implications of matters relating to development finance, technology transfer and capacity development is crucial.

**Mr. President**

Lesotho joins the global call for national ownership to effective integration, implementation and review processes. Our quest to pursue a sustainable future for all must never wane as we step into the era and embark on the road-map of the post-2015 development agenda. One of the main objectives is to translate global and regional frameworks into national and local actions; provide the mechanism for coherent and integrated planning and decision-making at national level to ensure effective linkages from local to global. The national review process is, therefore, the most significant in the overall review process for which a bottom-up process is critical. In this regard, the Secretary General's report on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda places emphasis on the need for a bottom-up review process. It also highlights the significance of national reviews that should inform sub-regional, regional and global level review processes, thus enhancing national ownership and the legitimacy of the HLPF review process.

**Mr. President,**

Emerging issues in the post-2015 development agenda could place additional stress on an already weak national monitoring and reporting systems. In that context, resource requirements, cost implications and data challenges would need particular consideration for effective implementation and review process. Hence, national institutions in charge of monitoring, evaluation at all levels, will need to be clearly identified, appropriately mandated and resourced. This calls for enhanced support from the international community and the operationalization of a sustainable development data revolution, which the Secretary General's report considers an important enabler for a review system.

In conclusion, the international processes on the sustainable development goals, sustainable development financing and technology facilitation will ultimately need to converge in order to set an integrated and inclusive agenda for development beyond 2015. An ambitious global agreement in 2015 on climate change under the auspices of the United Nations Framework

Convention on Climate Change will also be critically important to the future of sustainable development.

**I Thank You**