



**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

H.E Mr.

**DURING THE 57th SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON
POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT (GENERAL DEBATE)**

UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS

NEW YORK

02 MAY, 2024

Mr. Chair

Distinguished delegates

The kingdom of Lesotho is happy to join the global community in celebrating 30 years since the adoption of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Programme of Action. This milestone, coincides with the kingdom's 200 years of existence. The year 2024, is truly a reflection year for Basotho

mainstream gender, promote and protect women's rights and shield women from various forms of abuse, exploitation and discrimination.

The government of Lesotho has further made good progress in strengthening health systems. This has resulted in a steady decline in unmet needs of family planning from 18% in 2014 to 16 % in 2018. Similarly, the maternal mortality ratio, although still high, has declined from 936 deaths per 100 000 live births in 2006 to 566 deaths per 100,000 birth in 2020.

The country recognizes the gaps in data to guide development agenda. Our national Bureau of Statistics has developed a national strategy to meet the country's increasing data demands.

Lesotho also continues to strengthen partnerships and international cooperation. The country recently launched the Country Partnership Framework for the period 2024 to 2028. This is a product of collaboration between the Government of Lesotho and the World Bank Group, to promote a private sector driven, export orientated economy for job creation and support for an effective public sector. Furthermore, the government is continuing to strengthen partnership with both national and international civil society organizations to promote a better health for all in the kingdom.

Mr. Chair

As we move forward, we pledge to accelerate efforts to ensure universal access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health services, eliminate harmful practices, promote gender equality, and uphold the dignity and rights of every person.

Our commitment extends beyond 2030, as we position ourselves for a future where every individual can thrive. By advancing the ICPD Programme of Action, we contribute to a more just, equitable, and prosperous world for all.

As I conclude **Mr. Chair**, we humbly call upon all UN member states to harness the power of collaboration, evidence-based policies, and inclusive approaches. Together, we can build a world where no one is left behind, where rights are respected, and where sustainable development flourishes.

I thank you for your attention!