



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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STATEMENT

BY

**H.E. MR. LEBOHANG FINE MAEMA, KC
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

TO THE

**FIFTY-SECOND SESSION OF THE
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

3RD MARCH 2008, New York

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Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you and the members of the bureau

for your election into the bureau of the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women. We commend you for the manner you have been steering the deliberations of the Commission.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and the Statement delivered by Zambia on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC).

Mr. Chairperson,

We commend the Secretary General on his initiative on the campaign to end violence against women. This comes at a critical time when many Governments are making a lot of commitments with little action. We believe that with this launch, governments and individuals will be awakened to the seriousness of violence against women. We pledge our commitment to continue in the struggle to fight violence against women and to invest in gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho is fully committed to gender equality and financing by ensuring that gender equality is at the centre of all its development interventions with laws and policies providing a platform for good practices and human

Mr. Chairperson,

Deliberate efforts have been made to enhance women's participation and representation

in governance and decision making structures especially in Local Government with the enacted 30% quota and has adopted the campaign for 50% representation of women in Parliament. The Ministry of Gender is currently working towards strengthening the

women's movement and establishing an APEX body, which is expected to create critical mass and the necessary space for discussing women's issues in the country.

The role of the Legislature in gender equality and women's empowerment cannot be over emphasized; as such the Ministry of Gender with the assistance of UNDP has embarked

Mr. Chairperson,

Partnerships between the government and civil society organizations working on gender issues have been strengthened and continue to grow. Currently government and civil society partners namely Women and Law in Southern Africa Research Trust and Gender Links will be rolling out a local government gender equality initiative. This

government structures in the country. Similarly, expert groups such as the Expanded