



**THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO STATEMENT BY THE
HONOURABLE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND
METEOROLOGY**

HON.FRANCIS MOKOTO HLOAELE

**AT THE 62ND REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

17th SEPTEMBER, 2018

Madam President of the General Conference

Deputy Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency, Ms. Mary Alice Hayward,

Excellencies

Distinguished delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen

I earnestly convey congratulatory messages from the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho, on your election as the president for the 62nd IAEA General Conference, together with the other members of the Bureau. Please be assured of my delegation's fervent support to you and the conference secretariat. We rally behind you towards a successful conference epitomized by fruitful deliberations and realistic outcomes.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho greatly values the long-standing relationship with the Agency. The relationship has seen meaningful contributions under the Technical Cooperation Programme. The Programme has led to around 100 Basotho undergoing fellowships, scientific visits and long-term trainings. The country has also benefited tremendously through the provision of equipment under various projects in the fields of

agriculture, water management and radiation safety to name but a few.

Madam President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho takes cognizance of the need to keep up with the global trends in as far as issues of nuclear security are concerned. The Kingdom has received unwavering support from the Agency under the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP). We express immense gratitude in this regard and further hope to extend collaboration in this field.

The country is already looking forward to the 2020-2021 cycle under which five projects that cover Nutrition, Agriculture (crops and livestock), Human Health and Regulatory Infrastructure have been approved.

Madam President,

We are proud to mention that on 4 September 2018; a significant milestone was realized; Passing of the Radiation Protection Agency Bill by the National Assembly. This move paves a way for the efficient legislative framework and regulation of nuclear material and radioactive sources and the construction of the radiotherapy centre. The Kingdom of Lesotho expresses sincere gratitude to the Office of Legal Affairs at the Agency, for its continued guidance in the drafting of the law, as well as the Legislative awareness mission

undertaken in February this year. Lesotho is mindful of the immediate need to establish and maintain an independent regulatory authority, going forward.

Madam President,

The country is burdened by cancer diseases, hence in July 2018, through the Office of the First Lady the country hosted the 12th Stop Cervical, Breast and Prostate Cancer conference in Africa. The Conference was an indication of the country's willingness to join forces with other African countries in combating the scourge of cancer in Africa. We have expanded access to treatment for cancer patients through collaboration with Apollo hospitals in India where currently Basotho health professionals are being trained to facilitate the establishment of the chemotherapy centre. We are steadfast in our endeavor to build our first radiotherapy centre. Additionally, the Agency has assisted the country to develop National Cancer Control Plan and Bankable document. To this end, we look forward to the Agency to assist us to make this undertaking a reality under the Technical Cooperation Programme.

Madam President,

The theme for this year's Scientific Forum is "Nuclear Technology for Climate Mitigation, Monitoring and

Adaptation”. The Kingdom of Lesotho recognizes the pivotal role of nuclear applications in adapting, mitigating and monitoring climate change. We are honoured to have been invited to deliver a statement on the theme at the Scientific Forum. We further wish to highlight that climate change is a universal phenomenon, and needs a concerted global effort.

Madam President,

We have developed the second Country Programme Framework (2018-2023), due to be signed before the end of this year. This document highlights the continuing cooperation between Lesotho and the Agency. We are thus supportive of the Agency’s mandate to advance the cause of “Atoms for Peace and Development”.

I thank You.