STATEMENT

Delivered by

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OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

to the

High-level Comprehensive Mid-Term Review of the Vienna Programme of Acion

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Please Check Against Delivery
Mr. President,
UN Secretary General
Distinguished Delegates,

It is a great honour and privilege Mr. President to address this august gathering whose intention is to review progress made at the midterm point of the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action. Lesotho aligns herself with the Statements by the State of Palestine on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and of Paraguay on behalf the Landlocked Developing Countries.

May I also offer Lesotho’s congratulatory remarks to you, as you continue to steer the work of our group, throughout your term. I also wish to express our great appreciation to the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island States (UN-OHRLLS), for the excellent manner in which it continues to coordinate and follow up on the implementation of the Vienna Program of Action (VPoA), Madam High Representative, to you and your staff we can only express our deepest gratitude.

Mr. President,

During the period in review, Lesotho was implementing the National Strategic Development Plan I, a five-year medium-term
plan. Based on lessons learned, Lesotho has developed the NSDP II to cover the period, 2018/19 – 2022/23. The plan is intended to achieve the long term national, regional and international development frameworks. Likewise, the priorities of the VPoA are mainstreamed in the NSDP II to enhance economic competitiveness and improve trade facilitation for employment creation.

Mr. President,

On trade matters, Lesotho’s export partners have not changed much over the years. The products of exports are mainly diamonds, textiles, wool and mohair.

We have also established the Lesotho Standard Institution in 2018, recently finalized the Trade Policy Framework with support from the European Union SADC Trade Related Facility and working on the Development of the Export Strategy to identify sectors for growth to integrate domestic firms into regional and global value chains.

Mr. President,

Lesotho has ratified the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement, notified categories A, B and C and established the National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) that is currently capacitated through the UNCTAD Empowerment Programme.
Mr. President,

The government has also taken advantage of regional integration to lower bandwidth prices for Lesotho and has introduced an e-government project to increase government efficiency and public service delivery.

Mr. President,

Lesotho fully endorses the elements of the LLDC declaration. In conclusion, we are hopeful that with the remaining time, the priorities of the VPoA will be met and duly reported at the much anticipated UN Conference on Landlocked Countries the will be held in 2024.

I thank you.