

KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

**STATEMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY DR. MAKASE NYAPHISI –
AMBASSADOR AND HEAD OF THE LESOTHO DELEGATION
TO THE 53RD REGULAR SESSION OF THE GENERAL
CONFERENCE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY
AGENCY (IAEA)**

VIENNA, 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2009

Madam President
Director General of IAEA
Excellencies
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen

Since this is the first time that the Kingdom of Lesotho participates in this conference as a full-fledged member of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), allow me to convey the best wishes for a successful Conference from His Majesty King Letsie III, the Government and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Madam President, we congratulate you, on being elected President to the General Conference. I can assure you the fullest support and cooperation of the Delegation of the Kingdom of Lesotho as you steer the deliberations of this Conference.

We wish to register our congratulations, to the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of Rwanda as new members of the Agency.

Madam President, we would like to join the other distinguished Delegates, in congratulating the out – going Director General, Dr Mohammed ElBaradei for his outstanding leadership in conducting the affairs of this Agency for the past 12 years.

In a similar vein, it gives us great pleasure and satisfaction that Dr ElBaradei is handing over the baton to Ambassador Amano, a distinguished diplomat, whose skills, we are confident will ensure that the IAEA continues to discharge its duties and mandate effectively and efficiently, for the benefit of all the Member States.

As a new member of the Agency, the Kingdom of Lesotho will do its best to work harmoniously with the Agency and all the Member States. You can count on our contributions to the work and mandate of the Agency.

Madam President, the Kingdom of Lesotho hopes that the IAEA will continue and give special attention to enhance support to Least Developing Countries to meet their developmental agenda for peace, security and prosperity, through applications on Nuclear Technology for food security, health, water resources management and the environment.

A nuclear-weapons free world and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals are central to achieving a better life for us, a better future for our children and next generations.

Madam President, in conclusion, I am pleased to inform that: the Kingdom of Lesotho is in the process on concluding its Additional Protocol. We have also recently amended the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP) to our Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Safeguards Agreement with the Agency.

We would encourage all States to conclude such Additional Protocols, and for those with Small Quantities Protocols, to amend their SQP's.

Thank you, Madam President.