



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

**AT THE 65TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE
GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE
INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY**

VIENNA, AUSTRIA

21ST SEPTEMBER, 2021

President of the Sixty-fifth General Conference;
Director General of International Atomic Energy Agency,
Mr. Raphael Grossi
Honorable Ministers, Your Excellences' Heads of Delegation;
Distinguished delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my honor and privilege to address the 65th Regular Session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Mr. President,

I would like to congratulate you on your election as the president of the 65th International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) General Conference, together with the members of the Bureau.

I assure you of Lesotho's full support and cooperation in achieving the goals and the objectives of the General Conference. We rally behind you towards a successful conference epitomized by fruitful deliberations and realistic outcomes.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho is currently implementing five projects under Technical Cooperation Program (TCP) 2020-2021 cycle, the five projects cover areas of Nutrition, Agriculture (Livestock and Crops), Human Health and Regulatory Infrastructure. The Kingdom of Lesotho remains indebted to the Agency for the unwavering technical support and provision of equipment during the TCP.

In the spirit small but high impact projects for the 2022-2023 TC cycle, Lesotho will be implementing two projects that are aimed at eradicating poverty amid the changing climate and the Covid19 pandemic.

Mr. President,

Lesotho is committed to the establishment of the Regulatory Authority as per the Radiation Protection Agency Act 2018, and has gazetted the respective members of the Regulatory Board. The Government continues to engage the Agency in this process for guidance and direction. The Agency has accorded Lesotho the opportunity to participate in Scientific Visits to enhance the capacity of the Regulatory board.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho wishes to express its sincere gratitude to the IAEA for support to the Kingdom of Lesotho on Covid19 response through provision of Real-time Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) equipment and consumables. For over a decade, the Government of Lesotho benefitted the Technical Assistance from the Agency in various applications of nuclear science and technology.

Mr. President,

The theme of this year's Scientific Forum "Preparing for Zoonotic Outbreaks: the role of Nuclear Science" is timely and appropriate due to the increased cases of Covid19 that are affecting the world. The Kingdom of Lesotho continues to experience cases of Covid-19, Rabies and Anthrax. These affect our livelihoods, and this year's theme challenges us to intensify development of necessary capacities for sound management zoonotic diseases. We pride ourselves with the state of equipment and competence of staff at National Veterinary laboratory that made possible by IAEA. These had enabled detection of the zoonotic outbreaks including Avian Influenza. The country appreciates the IAEA technical support for research and developments under the ZODIAC initiative to enhance improved preparedness for responding to zoonotic diseases outbreaks.

Mr. President,

The Kingdom of Lesotho continues to pledge its support to the Agency in the fulfillment of its mandate.

Thank You.