



**INTERVENTION BY
HONOURABLE LESEGO MAKGOTHI
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**ANNUAL MEETING FOR MINISTERS OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF LANDLOCKED DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES**

New York

25 SEPTEMBER 2019

CR 5 – 15.00-18.00 HOURS

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Your Excellency Chair,

Your Excellency the President of the 74th Session of the General Assembly,

Honorable Ministers,

**Your Excellency Madam Under Secretary General and High Representative of
UN-OHRLLS,**

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

It is my distinct honor and privilege to join colleagues in congratulating you Chair for the able way you are conducting our meeting.

Four years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, we are left with just over year to implement the Istanbul Declaration and Programme of Action (IPOA) for Least Developed Countries (2011-2020). It is therefore, timely to first, take stock of progress towards graduation from the LDC category. Secondly, to reflect on what can be done to accelerate this long-standing aspiration of the United Nations since the LDC classification of countries was established.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that, progress towards achieving the goals and targets of the IPoA has been uneven across its priority areas. As a group we have fallen short of reaching our goals and targets. Our meeting therefore presents us with an invaluable opportunity to reflect, redress and reflect on our individual country successes; challenges and constraints while in earnest 'leaving no one behind' and finally to learn from invaluable lessons from each other.

Mr. Chairman,

Our National Strategic Development Plan II has been finalized; it is aimed at reduction of poverty and attainment of sustainable development. This plan, targets 5 percent inclusive economic growth in the medium term through creation of sustainable jobs by private sector investment in the four sectors: Commercial Agriculture; Tourism and Creative Industries; Manufacturing and Technology and Innovation.

The strategic direction of the country therefore aims to radically transform the economy and will serve as a foundation for long-term growth and development towards achievement of the targets within the next LDC agenda which will be adopted at the Fifth UN Conference on LDCs. This conference will give an impetus to the leadership of our countries to further the conversation and encourage positive action through sharing of experiences, best practices and lessons learned in order to propel LDCs into the next programme.

Mr. Chairman,

As I conclude my remarks, may I take this opportunity to commend the Group of Friends of the LDCs as they continue to support our Group to achieve the priorities of the IPoA.

Finally, Chair, Lesotho fully endorses the elements of the LDC declaration.