



Statement by the Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Dr. Moeketsi Majoro During the United Nations Food Systems Summit held in New York, on 23rd September 2021

Mr Chairman,

I speak today on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho, representing His Majesty King Letsie III who was initially scheduled to share with this auspicious gathering, observations on food systems from the Kingdom. It is my greatest honour to present my country's commitments towards transforming our food systems into sustainable systems that could deliver food security and nutrition for all, in a manner that takes cognizance of economic, social and environmental impacts during production, distribution and consumption. These commitments represent views expressed by a diverse set of stakeholders including farmers, nutritionists, distributors, value chain participants, youth, civil society, women and policy makers.

The outcome of the food systems dialogues is a strong multi-stakeholder commitment to strengthening food systems capacity and systematically addressing its clearly well-understood challenges. Another important outcome of the dialogues is that the country is implementing solutions to many of these challenges, but not in a manner that can ensure the transformation of the entire agriculture economy, and thus wasting many of the efforts deployed today.

For its part, the Government has prioritized agriculture and nutrition in its development plans and actions. But to strengthen Lesotho's food systems, it is important to address simultaneously the elements of the food security value chains in their entirety. This includes recapitalising agriculture, transferring farming technology including widespread use of digital technology, commercialising the agriculture sector, adopting climate-smart and sensitive operations, promoting food safety including through plant protection services, providing trained personnel into the sector, investing in agriculture and food research, protecting the land resource, deploying early warning systems and raising the capacity to manage climate disasters and deploy effective extension services.

Finally, and to foster ownership, food systems transformation will require inclusive multi-stakeholder collaboration. The involvement of private sector and civil societies in policy formulation and implementation is of utmost importance.

I thank you.