



**STATEMENT BY THE THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO ON CONFIDENCE
BUILDING MEASURES**

4-8 DECEMBER 2023

Thank you Mr. Chair,

The Kingdom of Lesotho aligns itself with the African Group Statement delivered by Nigeria yesterday and wishes to express profound gratitude for the support rendered by The Implementation Support Unit to attend the Working Group Meeting. We thank the panellists for their invaluable presentations which have illuminated light into the extensive work done by the ISU in assisting Member States to undertake their obligations under the Convention.

We view this meeting as a good platform for The Kingdom of Lesotho to learn and ascribe to various compliance related mechanisms under The Biological Weapons Convention. We endeavour to tap into the array of corporation initiatives geared towards compliance to the Biological Weapons Convention and will be having various bilateral meetings to this effect.

Mr. Chair

We earlier met with the Legal Officer for the Biological Weapons Convention Office for Disarmament Affairs and discussed areas of support and collaboration. Regionally, we have started collaborating with the African Union and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to look at ways of fortifying our bio-security and bio-safety legislative regime. We hope to develop the necessary capacities to help us to submit our Confidence Building Measures (CBM's) in the not so distant future.

We conclude by reaffirming our commitment to the work of the ISU and to the implementation of our obligations towards CBMs, and underscore that international corporation is fundamental, if Member States are to join synergies to combat production of biological weapons.

I thank you Mr. Chair