



THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THE 3rd MEETING OF STATES
PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE PROHIBITION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS (TPNW)
ON 03-07 March 2025
NEW YORK

Mr President,

It is an honour for me to deliver this statement on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho at this third Meeting of States Parties to the Treaty on the Prohibition of nuclear weapons. Mr President, I wish to congratulate you on your election at the helm of the Third Meeting of States Parties to this important Treaty and affirm the Kingdom of Lesotho's unwavering support for your leadership toward a successful outcome of this Meeting. I also applaud the commendable preparatory work done and dedication throughout the year.

Mr President,

We reiterate our support to the intersessional decision 3 of the TPNW 2MPS to establish a sponsorship programme operated by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The sponsorship programme will go a long way in building capacity and to ensure the crucial inclusivity and broad participation.

Mr President,

Lesotho does not develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear weapons and their means of delivery. However, in demonstration of support to the international community in the fight against weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, Lesotho ratified the TPNW, and later followed by submission of a Declaration pursuant to Article 2 of the Treaty.

Mr President,

As a state party to the TPNW, the Kingdom of Lesotho regards nuclear disarmament as essential to peace, human rights and development. We regard the TPNW as a vital instrument in efforts to

realise a safer and more secure world. In recognition of the need to join global efforts to reduce human suffering caused by the use of nuclear weapons, the Lesotho at all times affirms the need for all States to comply with applicable international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

In this regard, principles and rules of international humanitarian law, in particular the principle that the right of parties to an armed conflict to choose methods or means of warfare is not unlimited, the rule of distinction, the prohibition against indiscriminate attacks, the rules on proportionality and precautions in attack, the prohibition on the use of weapons of a nature to cause superfluous injury or unnecessary suffering, and the rules for the protection of the natural environment, Considering that any use of nuclear weapons would be contrary to the rules of international law applicable in armed conflict, in particular the principles and rules of international humanitarian law.

Mr President,

Under Article 5 of the Treaty on National Implementation, the Kingdom of Lesotho has the following legislative measures in place; **Penal Code Act 2012** which criminalizes acts of manufacturing, possession, acquisition, transport, supply or use of weapons, explosives or of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons, as well as research into, and development of weapons of mass destruction. Lesotho has also enacted several legislations for export control, transit, explosives; and nuclear material. These laws are **Customs and Exercise Act of 1982** which provides for control of prohibited and restricted items such as weapons, explosives as well as radioactive material through the borders. There is also **Export and Import Act of 1984** which provides for movement of goods in and out of the country.

Mr President,

We believe that this Treaty can reduce the salience of nuclear weapons and help prompt more urgent action to reduce nuclear risk and foster disarmament. We fully support the universalization of the Treaty and believe that this can also be achieved by sharing of experiences between States through various platforms. Hence, we continue our call to those States that have not yet signed or ratified the Treaty to do so.

Lesotho believes that this Treaty will close a legal gap that exists pertaining to nuclear weapons, the gap which is not expressly prohibited by the NPT. My Country strongly believe that the Treaty reinforces the NPT and its Article IV requirement for nuclear Disarmament.

In conclusion, Mr President, my delegation looks forward to a fruitful and successful 3MSP. And we take this opportunity to reiterate our full support and cooperation as you guide us in our deliberations.

I thank you for your attention!!!