



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM  
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS*

*815 Second Avenue*

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*New York, NY 10017*

## **STATEMENT**

**BY**

**THE HONOURABLE MR. MOHLABI K. TSEKOA  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL  
RELATIONS OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**AT THE**

**SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THE  
FOLLOW-UP TO THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND  
DEVELOPMENT**

**DURING THE**

**SIXTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**22 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**NEW YORK**

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**Mr. President,**

Lesotho is pleased to have contributed to the global survey for the ICPD beyond 2014 review, we are equally satisfied that we have made considerable progress in implementing the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development.

Since the Cairo Conference of 1994, Lesotho has put in place an institutional, legislative and policy environment that has facilitated implementation of the ICPD Program of Action. Discriminatory laws and policies against women have been repealed and replaced by new laws that empowered women and guaranteed women's rights to economic transactions and property ownership. Other laws such as the Sexual Offences Act of 2003, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act of 2011 and the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act of 2006 have been enacted to protect women and address challenges of gender inequality, poverty and unemployment.

**Mr. President,**

Lesotho has recognized the importance of population data and analysis as basis for development strategies, policies and programmes. Population and housing censuses have been undertaken in three consecutive decades since 1986. The National Population Policy is being revised to provide a holistic approach that deals with population concerns within the context of sustainable development.

Lesotho has made significant progress in increasing access to sexual and reproductive health services. The number of women who access modern methods of family planning and those who deliver under skilled care are on the increase. Furthermore, prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV has improved.

A number of challenges however remain. 57.1 percent of our country's population still remain under poverty; there is high unemployment especially among the youth; the adult HIV prevalence as well as infant and maternal mortality remains high.

**Mr. President,**

The challenges being faced by Lesotho and other developing countries point to the need for implementing the ICPD Program of Action with more zeal. In this regard, to join the international community in reaffirming support for the ICPD Programme of Action beyond 2014 is not an option but a fundamental necessity for achieving improved development outcomes.

I would like to conclude by pointing out that without coordinated efforts, harmonized policies and integrated strategies among all relevant players such as government, civil society and faith-based organizations as well as development partners, human development will be difficult to achieve. We should have fulfilled the expectations of our peoples if from this gathering, can emerge concrete plans from IPCD beyond 2014 agenda.

**I thank you!**