



**STATEMENT BY THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
AT THE FIFTH REVIEW CONFERENCE:
THE SIEM REAP-ANGKOR SUMMIT ON A MINE- FREE WORLD**

25-29 NOVEMBER 2024

**Your Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Mr. President,

Lesotho aligns itself with the statement delivered by South Africa on behalf of the African Group.

On behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho, we extend our gratitude to the Government of Cambodia and the Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA) for hosting this pivotal Conference in the historic city of Siem Reap. We commend the leadership of the Senior Minister and the First Vice President of the CMAA, H.E Ly Thuch for spearheading this significant global initiative, which marks a crucial step forward in our collective mission for a world free of landmines. A world where no individual should fear walking on their own land or playing in their community.

Lesotho acceded to the Mine Ban Convention in 1998, and the Convention entered into force for Lesotho on the 1st of June 1999. As a legal dualist, whose international treaties are not self-executing, Lesotho, implements the provisions of the Convention through the Internal Security Act of 1984, which prohibits any form of production or stock piling of mines. Further of note is that Lesotho also adheres to the obligations set out in the 1997 SADC Declaration, whose mandate is to ensure a Southern

Africa, Free of Anti- Personnel Mines, as well as to all the African Union strategies relating to the prohibition of anti-personnel mines.

Mr. President

Lesotho stands in solidarity with mine-affected nations and communities worldwide, acknowledging the long-lasting human, social, and economic impact that landmines continue to have, decades after conflicts. While Lesotho is not directly impacted by the legacy of landmines, we recognize that this issue transcends borders. The pain inflicted by these weapons affects us all by undermining peace, security and human dignity across the globe. We are deeply committed to supporting international efforts to eradicate this threat and advocate for collective action to achieve a mine-free World.

Lesotho views the Mine Ban Convention, as a landmark treaty, with profound significance for the international disarmament cause. In the past 25 years of its entry into force, the international community has been striving forward to achieve the noble objectives of the Convention and those of the Oslo Action Plan.

As we assess our collective progress this week, Lesotho commends the significant strides made through international collaboration, dedicated funding and the tireless efforts of demining teams and organizations. However, we must acknowledge that while many achievements have been realized, the journey is far from complete. There remain regions where landmines continue to pose a daily threat, disrupting livelihoods and hindering development. In this regard, my delegation strongly

believes that a great deal of work still needs to be done, if we are to achieve a total ban of anti-personnel mines. we must redouble our efforts to assist these nations through increased financial and technical support and sharing of best practices.

We firmly regard the Mine Ban Convention as indispensable international disarmament instrument that serves as a source of inspiration in addressing both past and ongoing challenges caused by landmines. These challenges continue to hinder the full enjoyment of the rights of civilian populations. Now more than ever, there is need to scale up efforts to ban anti-personnel mines and enable our societies to live in dignity and peace.

We further wish to register Lesotho`s commitment to the Universalization of the Convention and the full respect of the provisions of the Convention, in entirety. It is in this, context my delegation wishes to take this opportunity to appreciate the implementation Support Unit, for the support it continues to offer States on the implementation and Universalization of the Convention, including through the Sponsorship Program of the Convention.

In Conclusion, **Mr. President**, I wish to reiterate Lesotho`s commitment to working in cooperation with all stakeholders, towards attaining a world that is free of land mines; where the cornerstones of humanity, solidarity, world peace and mutual trust prevail.

I thank you Mr. President.

