



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

BY

**HIS MAJESTY KING LETSIE III
HEAD OF STATE OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

AT THE

**THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
FINANCING FOR DEVELOPMENT**

**13 JULY 2015
ADDIS ABABA**

Please check against delivery

Your Excellency Mr. Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and President of the Third Conference on Financing for Development;
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government;
Your Excellency Mr. Sam Kutesa, President of the United Nations General Assembly;
Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, United Nations Secretary General;
Your Excellencies Heads of the Bretton Woods Institutions;
Your Excellency Mr. Wu Hongbo, Secretary-General of the Conference;
Your Excellencies Ambassadors George Talbot and Geir Pedersen, Co-facilitators of the Preparatory Process;
Distinguished Delegates;
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honour and privilege for me to address this Third International Conference on Financing for Development. I wish to congratulate you, **Mr. President**, on your well-deserved election as President of the Conference. Your illustrious leadership assures us of a successful Conference. I pledge my delegation's full support.

Allow me also to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and People of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation since our arrival in this prestigious African city.

Mr. President,

More than a decade ago, the United Nations held the first International Conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico, to consider new approaches to financing more equitable global development. Monterrey signaled a turning point in the approach to development cooperation by the international community. The resulting Monterrey Consensus resolved to address the challenges of financing for development and to eradicate poverty.

While the original Monterrey agenda has not yet been fully implemented, new challenges have arisen, and enormous unmet needs remain for the achievement of sustainable development. Shocks from financial and economic crises, conflict, climate change, natural disasters, and disease outbreaks spread rapidly in our highly interconnected world. The important

issues of increasing financial and technical cooperation for development are as important to Lesotho, today as they were in 2002. The spirit of Monterrey, which put the focus firmly on vulnerable countries, should once again be echoed here in Addis Ababa.

Mr. President,

On this historic day as we gather to establish a holistic and forward-looking financial framework for development, we must commit to concrete actions that ensure delivery on promises made. The financing needs for sustainable development are colossal, particularly in developing countries. Further strengthening of the framework to finance sustainable development, remain crucial now than ever before.

Achieving sustainable development is indeed the central challenge of our times. Our world is under strain. Poverty continues to plague communities and families. Climate change threatens livelihoods. Inequalities are deepening. These crises will only worsen unless we change course. Achieving the proposed sustainable development goals will require a lot of new investments: on water infrastructure, energy and transport; new educational systems; new health care; and other critical areas.

The Financing for Development process is thus, of fundamental importance for the success of the upcoming UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. We are of the opinion that the new financing framework should integrate the three dimensions of sustainable development. In this regard, we stress the need to mobilize the full range of financial sources: national, international, private and public.

Mr. President,

International Public Finance will remain important in the implementation of the new development agenda, especially for countries in special situations and those facing specific challenges. Considerations on finance are now taking into account the need to use a wide range of funding sources, over and above the Official Development Assistance (ODA). These include innovative and conducive policies to encourage partnerships between public and domestic private sectors to address challenges in infrastructure

development and Green Economy.

It should be highlighted that while globally, economic activity and financing flows have increased substantially, ODA flows have declined in recent times, though it still remains an important source of funding. There is however a need to ensure that a significant portion of ODA is given to those countries in greatest need. In this regard we commend those developed countries, which have already achieved that target, as well as those that have reaffirmed their commitment to achieving it by 2030 or earlier.

Mr. President,

Lesotho is of the considered opinion that debt relief can be used to contribute to the development agenda. The debt problem, in particular, of the Least Developed Countries, is exacerbated by factors beyond their control such as, uncertainty in domestic production, volatility in international prices and the exchange rate and deteriorating terms of trade. There is a need to assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt finance, debt relief, debt restructuring and sound debt management.

Equally important for development and poverty reduction is the element of South-South cooperation as a complement, not a substitute, to North-South cooperation. It should however continue to be guided by the principles of respect for national sovereignty, national ownership and independence.

Mr. President,

One of the most challenging questions this Conference has to address is how to incorporate important agreed principles such as “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities” and equity. This principle, amongst others, recognises the historical differences in the contributions of developed and developing States to global problems, and differences in their respective economic and technical capacity to tackle these problems. It is important for us that it is adequately elaborated in the outcome document.

Mr. President,

Notwithstanding the importance of partnerships, each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development. The role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized. Many countries, including developing countries, have over the years implemented policy frameworks that have contributed to increased mobilization of domestic resources and higher levels of economic growth and social progress.

It is for the same reason that at the turn of the 21st century Lesotho embarked on the preparation of a long-term development strategy, the National Vision 2020, which is implemented through a comprehensive action-oriented National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP). The NSDP provides overall national strategic thrust and is designed to implement Lesotho's medium to long-term development goals.

The path to attaining these development goals in Lesotho is not without problems. A lot remains to be done to achieve our development objectives. Lesotho is cognizant of the fact that raising adequate financing over a planned period remains a major obstacle in the implementation of the NSDP. However, a financing strategy has been developed which includes broadening the domestic revenue base, contracting concessional external borrowing, mobilization of additional Official Development Assistance, mobilization of general and sector budget support, as well as negotiating Bilateral Framework agreements. It is in this Conference that we should share further ideas on the different avenues for raising financing for development.

Mr. President,

The road to Addis Ababa has been long and bumpy, but yet fruitful. Lesotho wishes to see an outcome document that embraces high-quality deliverables that speak directly to the development financing needs and aspirations of developing countries. We will make history if we agree on an outcome that will guide our efforts for financing development in years to come.

History has shown us that no problem of human destiny is beyond human capabilities. Our reason and spirit have many-a-time solved the seemingly insolvable. The true measure of success for multilateralism is not how much we promise, but how much we can deliver for those who need it most.

As I conclude, **Mr. President**, I am full of hope because we know what we must do. Like you, I too yearn for a world where future generations can live in peace and prosperity; a world where poverty is but a distant memory; a world where everyone can live, confident in tomorrow. This is a future that we all aspire for. And together we can take grand steps towards that future.

I thank you.