

Statement delivered by

**His Excellency Thabo Mofosi, Minister for Agriculture, food Security and Nutrition of Lesotho
on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)**

4 July 2023

Chairperson,

Commissioner of the African Union Commission, Commissioner Sacko

Your Excellences Heads of Delegations,

Your Excellency the Director-General of FAO,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Chairperson,

The Kingdom of Lesotho presents its highly esteemed congratulations and compliments to the Director-General of FAO, Dr. Qu, on his re-election. Lesotho appreciates and supports achievements of FAO during his tenure, particularly his passion for developing countries such as Lesotho. His immense energy towards achieving Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals in spite of a number of challenges such as COVID-19 and climate change to name a few.

DG, A solution is only a solution when it responds to a challenge. I repeat again: A solution is only a solution when it responds to a challenge.

Madame Chairperson,

I wish to register that Lesotho has embarked on partnering with FAO through its numerous initiatives, as we speak Lesotho has begun with the One Country One Priority Product (OCOP) and will continue partnering with FAO in order to achieve the Four Betters and leaving no Mosotho behind. The Right Honourable the Prime Minister launched the winter ploughing season a few weeks ago, in which he gave a directive that four thousand hectares of wheat will be cultivated. Even though we here in Rome are basking in warm summer days, Lesotho is in its winter season and due to climate change, is experiencing excessive snowfall affecting human and animal life especially in the highlands or mountain districts of Lesotho. Since the opening of this Conference, we have all heard of the importance of water. For those who know Lesotho you will know that it has an abundance of water and calls it the white gold of Lesotho. The Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition is currently reviewing its Fisheries policy and has embarked on the establishment of Nutrition clubs of which 85% led by women in rural villages in order to have comprehensive household food security and nutrition.

Lesotho continues to support the partnership between the Ministry of Agriculture, Food Security and Nutrition with the Ministry of Education and Training in the School Feeding Programme as it empowers small-scale farmers and encourages them to supply to the school feeding programme, to improve the livelihoods of those communities and providing nutritional meals to schoolchildren.

Chairperson,

In conclusion, Lesotho Government appreciates FAO's invitation to His Majesty King Letsie III the Goodwill Ambassador for Nutrition for the FAO and the Champion for Nutrition of the African Union, to deliver the Keynote address at the World Food Forum in October.

I Thank You!