



LESOTHO

Chairperson Ladies and Gentlemen

The onslaught of relentless extreme weather events and stressors continues unabated on communities and their fragile livelihoods even after two years of developing and reaching consensus on the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction framework in 2015.

A case in point is the devastating El Nino induced drought which wreaked havoc on thousands of people in the Southern African region in 2015/16. Our country was not spared, and more than half the population was rendered highly vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance. This scenario does not exclude several small devastating shocks and stressors that occur annually, rendering an increasing number of people vulnerable and ultimately falling into the poverty trap.

Chairperson

On introspection, at least in Lesotho, we have come to a conclusion that livelihoods and their level of resilience are at the center of the whole scenario that keeps repeating itself over and over again. It is against this background that the country concluded that the most effective way to deal with the situation is to target resilience and preparedness.

Lesotho is currently developing a Resilience Framework which is expected to provide a guide to developing and strengthening communities' livelihoods in order to make them resilient to future shocks and stressors. This is complemented by the implementing a Community Based Early Warning and Information Management System which is expected to

provide information to communities with information as a preparedness measure against the shocks and stressors.

In addition, the country is currently engaged in:

- Reviewing the National Strategic Development Plan into which the resilience framework will be mainstreamed.
- Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction in the school curriculum
- Assisting communities to conduct Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis to facilitate resilience building programmes.
- Developing infrastructure standards and codes.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

Having said all this, Lesotho continues to be highly vulnerable to climate shocks and stressors and we learn from the news and other mass media that Lesotho is no exception.

This must indicate to all of us that, while we have a new and improved framework, we still have to double our efforts to assist our communities in creating and strengthening sustainable livelihoods that can withstand the ever increasing extreme weather shocks and stressors.

To achieve and maintain the required sustainability, Governments have to take a lead, make a deliberate effort to allocate financial resources to DRR and provide strong coordination of all relevant stakeholders to channel resources to DRR in order to make a noticeable impact on the level of vulnerability. Our Governments also have a huge responsibility to provide good governance for DRR which enables smooth implementation of DRR initiatives and accountability by all.

In conclusion, I would like to urge our Cooperating Partners to continue to assist us both technically and financially to achieve higher levels of resilience which would in turn reduce the level of poverty which usually creates a vicious cycle of vulnerability.

Meetings like these should sensitize us and provide an insight into how our counterparts are tackling the common challenges facing our people in the DRR sector. It is important therefore to establish mechanisms which facilitate continuous learning, exchange of experiences and good practices from our counterparts in the DRR sector so that we can continue to improve and strengthen our communities' resilience to climate induced shocks and stressors.

KHOTSO

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