



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

**BY**

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

**AT THE**

**FIFTY-THIRD SESSION OF THE  
COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

**9 MARCH 2009  
NEW YORK**

**Mr. Chairperson,**

I would like to take this opportunity to express my delegation's satisfaction

conducting the deliberations of the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

My delegation aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the delegation of

empowerment of women. Further legislative reforms were undertaken with the promulgation by Parliament of the Sexual Offences Act (2003). This Act protects women against all offences of a sexual nature and the penalties embedded therein provide a deterrent to potential offenders.

positive impact that the Act has made on the ground cannot be over-emphasised.

Alive to the fact that the patriarchal nature of our society, has from time immemorial, defined the division of labour between women and men and the unequal sharing of responsibilities and opportunities in the labour market, Lesotho enacted the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act (2006). This Act addresses gender equality between men and women, equal reproductive rights and protection of women's property rights. Currently, efforts are

**Mr. Chairperson,**

It is common course that the responsibility of caring for those living with HIV/AIDS and those affected by the pandemic disproportionately rests in the domain of women and girls. This factor indeed limits the ability of

women in other activities that are essential to the health and well-being of the community.

assessment of institutions capacity and capability to prevent Gender Based Violence and to mainstream gender in their planning and programming, are

The Health Sector is going through reform which primarily aims at

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the above accomplishments, the following challenges remain:

empowerment of women persist. There is an urgent need to increase the role of men and boys in the household and in care giving to ease the burden that women suffer due to care and support. There is also a need to empower and train women to be able to sustain their livelihoods and support their families. The Millenium Development Goals may not be easily achieved if women are not equal partners to men.

The Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho remains committed to gender equality and the advancement of women's rights. We are confident that this Session will provide guidelines to Member States in mapping out policies that promote the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including in the context of HIV/AIDS. It is of no doubt that women's rights are human rights, and are inherent and universal. It behoves us therefore, Mr. Chairperson, to call upon all women and men of the world to work in