

Statement

By

**Honourable Minister of Justice and Correctional
Services, Lesotho.**

Mr. Semano Henry Sekatle

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Your excellency , distinguished delegates . Allow me to express my delegation's profound appreciation for your commendable leadership at the helm of the Assembly of State Parties to the Rome Statute (ASP). I assure you of Lesotho's support for your efforts to fight against atrocities and most serious crimes of international concern. The perpetrators of these atrocities must be brought to justice.

Mr. President

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has presented a profound and unprecedented shift in international criminal justice. Since 1998, the Rome Statute has continued to present our collective efforts to end a culture of impunity for the most heinous crimes that shock the conscience of humankind. It is in this spirit that Lesotho reaffirms her commitment towards the attainment of justice for victims of these horrendous crimes and thus attaches great importance to the role of the ICC in this regard.

Mr. President

In fact, at the centre of it all are the victims of these horrendous and heinous crimes. Lesotho can only appeal to the generosity of all state parties to support you financially and otherwise to come to their assistance to rehabilitate and provide some comfort to the victims.

I reiterate Lesotho's commitment to support the work of the court in promoting the rule of law, justice and respect for human rights which in our view are effective pillars of sustainable international peace and security, in a world governed and upholds the rule of law.

Mr President

I sincerely hope, that the repeated calls for transparency and merit in the selection and nomination of candidates to the ICC are genuine and are not

signals to side-line certain groupings. If the latter is the case, that can only invite divisions rather than cohesion and unity of purpose.

Mr. President

Lesotho can also not allow the court to be used specifically to unfairly target certain state parties. If that happens, Mr. President, it is obvious that the credibility of the court will be immediately eroded, whether that be perception or reality. The court needs to address this issue.

Mr. President

Lesotho cannot stand impunity and aggression in whatever form it presents its ugly face. It is for this reason that Lesotho supports the ICC and its efforts. The court has a mammoth task ahead of it, to address atrocities and all acts of injustices in the light of the increasing number of situations for the maintenance of the international legal order. The ICC cannot discharge its mandate without our concerted support as member states. We should always be mindful that the Rome Statute is a creature of our making. Therefore, any imperfection can be addressed by non-other than ourselves. It is in this spirit that Lesotho supports all efforts geared towards the enhancements of the Rome Statute system.

Mr. President

In conclusion, the key priority of international criminal justice must always be to secure justice for the victims of serious atrocity crimes and help prevent future incidents. The pursuit of a peaceful world is an ideal that our forbearers cherished and that is what we too must cherish for our future generations

I thank you.