



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

**BY**

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

**AT**

**THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE ROME STATUTE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT  
THE HAGUE-NETHERLANDS**

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**Please check against delivery**

Mr. Chairman,

I wish to extend the warm felicitations of the Lesotho delegation to you and congratulate you on your election as chairman of this fifth session of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of International Criminal Court. Our congratulations also go to the Members of the Bureau, the President of the Court, the Prosecutor and the Registrar. I am confident that the work plan for this fifth session will proceed expeditiously and meet the assigned goals under your able leadership.

We are meeting today against the backdrop of our recent success in the adoption of the resolution by the United Nations General Assembly entitled “Report of the International Criminal Court”, under agenda item 74 on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November 2006. This achievement is a testament to the earnest efforts of the International Community in supporting and recognizing the work of the ICC. It reflects our determination to strengthen international cooperation to combat the most serious crimes of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity as one of the greatest threats to our common humanity. And it further strengthens the role of the United Nations General Assembly as our central platform of engagement on such paramount issues. The task before us now is to implement the strategy assiduously so that it will yield tangible results.

No one would argue that War crimes, Genocide and crimes against humanity are a threat to international peace and security. We certainly need to enhance the partnership at the global level and the international community must address the multifaceted root causes if we want success in this undertaking. This can only be achieved if the entire membership of the Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute can extend immeasurable support to the work of ICC. In our view, the international campaign against commission of serious crimes and efficient assistance to the court in prosecuting the culprits accordingly can only be won through a comprehensive and balanced approach in full conformity with the purposes and principles of the Rome Statute of the international Criminal Court and the UN Charter, International Law and International Human Rights Covenants.

On October 9 2006, the President of the international Criminal Court presented the second annual report of the ICC to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. A very constructive and in depth debate on the theme thereof was entered into by various delegations. We commend the manner in which the said informative report was presented.

The establishment of the Court was the most significant development in recent years when concerted efforts are made by the international community to fight and eradicate impunity. There can be no lasting peace without justice, and justice and peace are thus complementary requirements. It is in this regard that my delegation will continue to strive for universal adherence to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The annual report clearly demonstrates that the International Criminal Court is now fully

operational. The Judicial phase functions have started, this includes operations in the field as well as court room proceedings against the first accused to be tried.

The President of the International Criminal Court in his address to the General Assembly in New York emphasized the fact that cooperation between the court and the United Nations and Cooperation by States, International and regional organization are fundamental to an effective and efficient functioning court. Especially in relation to arrest and surrender of accused persons, the provision of evidence, the relocation of witnesses and enforcement of sentences. It became very evident from report of the ICC and the subsequent debate in the General Assembly the significant role the ICC plays in our common multilateral system in eradicating impunity and to establish the rule of law, to promote and encourage respect for human rights and to maintain international peace and security.

Thank You.