



*PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM
OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED NATIONS
KHOTSONG
204 East 39th Street
New York, NY 10016*

STATEMENT

BY

**THE RIGHT HONOURABLE MR. PAKALITHA B. MOSISILI
PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

BEFORE THE

**SIXTY-FOURTH SESSION OF THE
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

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Mr. President,
Your Excellencies Heads of State and Government,
Your Excellency Mr. Ban Ki Moon, the Secretary General
of the United Nations,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

The theme that you have chosen for this Session of the General Assembly, Mr. President, is both timely and relevant. It is about finding effective responses to global crises and strengthening multilateralism for international peace, security and development.

We meet against the backdrop of very serious challenges confronting mankind in a long time. The Financial and Economic Crisis, Climate Change, and issues of International Peace and Security are but some of those challenges. No other organization is better placed than the United Nations to find solutions to these challenges.

Mr. President,

In June, 2009, Your predecessor convened a High Level Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis. We all had the opportunity then, to identify and agree on the causes, effects and solutions of this crisis. I shall not revisit the deliberations of that Conference. Suffice it to say it seems obvious that governments can no longer abdicate to the Financial Institutions their responsibility of oversight and regulation of the global financial systems.

The Least Developed and Developing Countries are the hardest hit by the financial crisis. Their exports have been severely reduced, and their capital flows choked. Its impact is felt in all aspects of life; be it in the increase of unemployment, illiteracy or in the incidence of the HIV and Aids related deaths due to unavailability of drugs.

My country, as a small economy, is highly vulnerable to external shocks, and is therefore one of those that are adversely affected by the financial crisis. Demand for textile exports has dropped dramatically, resulting in

unprecedented loss of livelihoods, and eroding the gains that we had made in poverty eradication.

Mr. President,

However all is not lost. I note the efforts of the G-20. It has pledged a stimulus package of 1.1 trillion US dollars, and the major part of these funds will be availed to developing countries. My concern is that, this initiative seems to have stalled and it is unclear how the funds will be distributed. It would be fair only if the disbursement is informed by the needs of individual countries. I must hasten to add that, the disbursement should be free of quotas and conditionalities. While I remain optimistic that the pledge will see the light of day, I appeal for the fulfillment of commitments that have been made on Overseas Development Aid. I further appeal for political will to complete Doha Round of negotiations. These are the anchor of our hope for the dawn of fair and equitable international trade.

Mr. President,

I congratulate the Secretary-General for convening the just-ended High-Level Event on Climate Change. We were unanimous at that Event that the challenges posed by climate change are beyond the capacity of any individual country to deal with alone. Response to the impact of climate change must be top priority for the whole of mankind. At stake is the preservation of the very elements that are responsible for the sustenance of human life on our planet.

Lesotho is hopeful that the Copenhagen Conference will usher in a new global agreement which will result in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We must never forget that, at the forefront of those most affected by the impact of climate change, are the poor and the innocent. Our call for the industrialized nations to capacitate the developing countries for mitigation and adaptation is therefore not misplaced. Those who are responsible for causing pollution of the environment have the responsibility to make cuts in harmful emissions and to help those that are adversely affected. We acknowledge that climate change may be our collective fault but is surely our collective responsibility.

Mr. President,

Another challenge confronting us is that of International Peace and Security. This challenge is a matter of utmost interest to my delegation. It reminds governments of their obligation to protect their peoples from mass atrocities, including genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes and crimes against humanity. I am referring to the Principle of The Responsibility to Protect.

Mr. President,

The Rwanda genocide is still fresh in our minds. Though the wounds may have healed, the scars remain pronounced, and serve as a painful reminder of man's inhumanity to man. They also serve as a reminder of how the international community can fail a people. Beyond Rwanda, and I dare say, even post Rwanda, we have witnessed mass atrocities being committed with impunity, against the most innocent and vulnerable populations. And sadly, the Security Council in whose purview the power to act is centralized, failed to act, thereby incapacitating the international community to act.

In our resolve to never fail any population again, we adopted the Principle of the Responsibility to Protect, at our 2005 World Summit. This Principle seeks to restore the confidence of populations in the United Nations system. In July 2009, the General Assembly held a debate on the Secretary General's report entitled "Implementing the Responsibility to Protect". Lesotho welcomes that balanced report, especially, the proposed practical measures for its implementation. We view the report as a good basis for negotiations in the General Assembly on how to implement the principle. It is true that the scope of the Principle is narrow and limited to genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. I would, nonetheless, discourage any reopening of the debates on paragraphs 138 and 139 of the World Summit Document.

Mr. President,

I find a linkage of this Principle with other critical issues that continue to feature in our international agenda. Among these are the reform of the United Nations especially the Security Council, disarmament and the International Criminal Court (the Court).

Needless to say, the Principle of Responsibility to Protect is meaningful only if it is grounded in multilateralism and collective action by the international community. The space through which the Responsibility to Protect may be possible is the Security Council and subsequently the General Assembly. But, unfortunately the Security Council as presently composed, is not capable of taking effective lead in this responsibility.

Mr. President,

The Council reflects the situation that obtained 64 years ago. It is not a true reflection of the current membership of the United Nations today. Therefore its composition is irrelevant and undemocratic. For all intents and purposes, the Council lacks legitimacy. For as long as the Council remains undemocratic, it will continue to fail the vulnerable and the defenceless. It will continue to use double standards and remain as a tool of the foreign policies of certain states. The desired multilateral path will continue to give way to the unilateral one! It is imperative, therefore, to hasten the UN reform process. The inter-governmental negotiations that were held during the 63rd Session of the General Assembly have advanced the reform process one step or two. However, more still needs to be done.

Mr. President,

The United Nations was formed on the ashes of the two World Wars. Its main purpose was, and still is, to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold misery to mankind. But, the continuing possession and development of nuclear weapons casts doubts on whether this objective can indeed be realized. At the time when the world is hungering for nuclear disarmament, why should some countries be testing, modernizing and producing new generations of nuclear weapons?

It is our obligation, as the international community, to strive for a world that is free of nuclear weapons. We remain disappointed in those countries that are engaged in the testing of nuclear weapons. We, however, must reiterate the right of every country to the development and use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Peaceful use of nuclear technology can be beneficial to all humanity.

We are delighted that, the Third Preparatory Committee Meeting for the 2010 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), has adopted the agenda for the 2010 Review Conference. This historic achievement strengthens our optimism, that our commitment to the disarmament process will gain renewed momentum.

Mr. President,

In 1998, the Statute Establishing the International Criminal Court was adopted in Rome. The Court is, among others, an answer to war crimes and crimes against humanity. It safeguards the Rule of Law in the international arena and is, therefore, well placed to complement the implementation of the Principle of the Responsibility to Protect.

Consequently, we should, as the international community, unconditionally extend our support to the Court. We must preserve its integrity and independence. There should be no state or organ of the United Nations that interferes with the Court processes. Most importantly, the Court must uphold the highest standards of impartiality, integrity and fairness.

Lesotho supports the Principle of Universal jurisdiction. However, we reject selective application of that noble principle because it erodes its acceptability and credibility.

Mr. President,

During the past year we witnessed the resurgence of piracy off the Coast of Somalia. This development has a negative impact on maritime security and safety. There is need for the international community to adopt a comprehensive approach to tackle the phenomenon of piracy off the Coast of Somalia and beyond. In this regard, Lesotho joins the voice of the Heads of State and Government of the African Union in calling for the convening of an international conference to discuss the adoption of an International Convention on the phenomenon of maritime piracy, and to eradicate its underlying causes.

Mr. President,

I would be remiss not to refer to the plight of the State of Palestine, the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Republic of Cuba. These are

people who continue to experience untold sufferings, ranging from war, political, economic and social injustices.

We call on Israel to cease all settlement activities, including the so-called natural growth, in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. By the same token, we call on both sides to cease all acts of hostility and attacks - Palestine to halt launch of indiscriminate missiles on Israeli civilians; and Israel to desist from use of disproportionate force against Palestinian civilians. We welcome the intensified efforts by the Quartet, the Arab League and other members involved in brokering peace in the Middle East. We are mindful of the fact that the quest for peace in the Middle East should be the responsibility of us all. We express our solidarity with the people of Palestine. At the same time we reiterate the inviolability and right to existence of the State of Israel.

The struggle by the Saharawi people is a struggle for self determination based on the principle of decolonization. Both the General Assembly and the Security Council have recognized the inalienable right of the Saharawi People to self-determination and independence. We urge the Saharawi Arab Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco to continue with their negotiations on an equal footing and without any conditions. The aspiration for the Saharawi people must take paramount priority in these negotiations.

We also hope that the positive signals of engagement between the Republic of Cuba and the United States will bring an end to the unfortunate financial and economic embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba. My Country shall continue to support the call for the lifting of this economic embargo against the people of Cuba.

Mr. President,

I wish to conclude by saying that no obstacle can beat the might of the United Nations. We must continue to pursue and cherish the purposes that have brought us together. The responsibility to secure the future of mankind relies heavily on our ability for collective approach to resolving the challenges of the world. We cannot ignore our responsibility to build a better and more united world, for the future generations.

I thank you.