



JOINT STATEMENT

DELIVERED BY

**BOKANG LETHUNYA-KHUTLANG
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO**

**ON BEHALF OF THE 16 BENEFICIARY DELEGATES OF THE LDCs/SIDS TRUST FUND
AT THE 48TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

ANNUAL DISCUSSION ON INTEGRATION OF A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

***27 SEPTEMBER 2021
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND.***

MADAM PRESIDENT

It is an honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the sixteen beneficiaries – 10 women and 6 men of the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund from Benin, Cambodia, Comoros, Gambia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Nepal, Saint Vincent and the Granadines, Sudan, Suriname, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia and my own country, Lesotho.

We thank the distinguished panelists for their comprehensive and stimulating presentations on the subject. We acknowledge that it is imperative, in order to respond well, that we take a multi-pronged, integrated approach to overturn the strong forces that reinforce and perpetuate gender inequalities.

Gender socialization begins very early and thus, educational institutions especially schools are best places to equip children with fundamental life skills at an early age and therefore powerful instruments to effect changes in mindset. The Covid-19 pandemic has taught us the importance of relying and carrying out education on any subject as well as awareness raising campaigns through digital communication tools and thus, there is need for special provision and access of such tools to disadvantaged communities, including women and girls in remote rural areas. Moreover, women have played an important role with regard to environmental management during this pandemic, therefore importance of integrating gender-responsiveness in environmental issues cannot be overemphasized.

In the panelists' views what remains to be done in achieving gender equality especially when the world is facing set-backs like Covid-19 which add to the already existing challenges?

I Thank You.