



**STATEMENT BY  
H.E. MR. NKOPANE R. MONYANE  
AMBASSADOR AND PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE  
OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO TO THE UNITED  
NATIONS  
DURING THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE FIRST  
COMMITTEE**

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**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation hereby congratulates you and other members of the Bureau on your election to the First Committee and assures you of our full support and cooperation. We further wish to associate ourselves with the statements delivered on behalf of the African Group and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

**Mr. Chairman,**

As we meet again for yet another First Committee Session, this platform provides us an opportunity to reflect on progress achieved during the past year. While we welcome the progress made in some areas, we are aware of the daunting work that still remains in strengthening international security and disarmament in general. We remain concerned about the continuing impasse in the UN disarmament machinery.

The failure of the UN Conference on Disarmament in making substantive progress for well over two decades has undoubtedly put the credibility of this crucially important body at high risk and has impacted negatively on the multilateral system of governance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The disarmament and international security landscape has seen some progress recently with the ratification and subsequent entry-into-force of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW). However, there is still more that needs to be done particularly by nuclear weapon states in the area of nuclear disarmament. The existing massive stockpile of nuclear weapons, as well as modernization of such weapons, cast a shadow of doubt on our prospects for attaining a nuclear weapons free world in the immediate future.

The argument that nuclear weapons are indispensable for the security of some States, but not for others, lacks credibility. It is our view that nuclear weapons create a false sense of security. Their possession breeds mistrust and heightens tensions among states.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We wish to underscore that full compliance with the provisions of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is critical for our nuclear disarmament agenda. We, therefore, call upon on all States Parties to the NPT to honour their obligations and to faithfully, and without precondition, implement all commitments agreed to in the past years.

As we prepare for the next Review Conference of the NPT January 2022, we must do so with a unity of purpose. Our deliberations at the conference should be guided by the spirit of frankness and mutual understanding without the acrimony that often characterizes our inter-governmental deliberations.

**Mr. Chairman,**

25 years since its adoption, the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) has not entered into force.

We reiterate our call for universalization of the Treaty, in particular ratification by the remaining Annex II States. While we welcome pronouncements by some states that they are committed to ratifying the CTBT, we, however,

wish to emphasize that such pronouncements will be meaningless unless they are accompanied by concrete action towards ratification.

**Mr. Chairman,**

We demonstrated a collective resolve by overwhelmingly adopting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) in April 2013 and witnessed its entry-into-force the following year however, conventional weapons continue to bring untold sorrow to us in the developing world. A fair, balanced, yet robust implementation of the ATT is critical, in order to achieve the goals of the Treaty in regulating international trade in conventional arms and in contributing towards curbing illicit transfers.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Lesotho continues to believe that the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons represents the central, universally agreed set of undertakings to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Apart from national implementation efforts, the full implementation of the entire UNPoA, including the provisions related to international cooperation and assistance, remains of critical importance.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Allow me to conclude by reiterating Lesotho's support for all United Nations Resolutions on arms control and disarmament.

I also wish to take this opportunity and call on the entire international community to join hands in bridging the gulf between rhetoric and action and fast track the implementation of the NPT.

**I THANK YOU**