STATEMENT BY

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PERMANENT MISSION OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO
TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND HEAD OF DELEGATION

DELIVERED AT THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE
FOR THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO
THE TREATY ON THE NON PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR
WEAPONS

CLUSTER 2 ISSUES

GENEVA: 29 APRIL 2013

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY
Mr. Chairman,

I align myself with the statement delivered by Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), under this Cluster.

Mr. Chairman,

We came together as UN Member States more than 6 decades ago in pursuit of a goal of achieving a peaceful world. This noble ideal continues to elude us due to the many threats to peace that exist in the world today. Nuclear weapons are amongst such threats. With the continuation of the proliferation, both vertical and horizontal, of these weapons, the future of humanity is at greater risk. It is in this context that we underscore the NPT as a landmark instrument that not only addresses the proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, but also contributes to the world peace.

The NPT places legal responsibilities and obligations on the Nuclear Weapons States (NWS) as well as the Non Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS). The responsibilities and obligations not to transfer nuclear weapons and not to receive the said weapons, respectively imposed on the NWS and NNWS by Articles I and II of Treaty, must be adhered to at all times and without any preconditions. Our fidelity to the Treaty and its principles is the only path towards the goal of disarmament and non-proliferation.

Mr. Chairman,

It is common cause that the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy is a cornerstone of the NPT as entrenched under Article IV of the Treaty. That right too comes with responsibilities and obligations, namely; the responsibility to use
nuclear energy solely for peaceful purposes, and the obligation to accept the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) comprehensive safeguards for verification purposes. Honesty and transparency are the sine qua non for successful implementation of the Treaty. In the enjoyment of the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy, States Parties must be very transparent and accordingly submit to the comprehensive safeguards of the IAEA.

The IAEA verification mechanism promotes transparency and is a confidence building measure. They are intended to ensure that the use of nuclear energy neither leads to the proliferation of nuclear weapons nor endangers the environment or human health. We support the strengthening of this mechanism, and indeed the overall strengthening of the Agency. In the same vein, we advocate for ratification of the relevant IAEA Additional Protocols and Safeguard Agreements by all States Parties. As a State Party to the NPT, Lesotho has signed safeguards agreements with the IAEA, including the Small Quantity Protocol (SQP).

Mr. Chairman,

Nuclear Weapon Free Zones (NWFZs) are of utmost importance for purposes of furthering the objectives of the NPT. Progress in this area has been modest. No NWFZs have been established since the last Review Conference. The conference on the Middle East Zone Free on Nuclear Weapons did not take place in 2012. We reiterate the call by the 2010 NPT Review Conference for the establishment of NWFs and the ratifications by the NWS of the Protocols to existing NWFZs Treaties. In this regard, we commend the latest ratification in 2011 of Protocols I and II of the Treaty of Pelindaba by Russia, as a NWS. We also commend the
United States for the steps that it has taken leading to the ratification of the Protocols to the Treaties of Pelindaba and Rarotonga, and we hope that it would soon become clear as to when the ratifications might take place.

I THANK YOU