



# **STATEMENT**

by the

**Principal Secretary, Cabinet (Economic Affairs)  
Prime Minister's Office  
Kingdom of Lesotho  
Mr. Samuel RAPAPA**

at the

**04<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2013**

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

**Chairperson,  
Honourable Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Allow me to convey very warm fraternal greetings from the Kingdom of Lesotho.

We in Lesotho regard the process of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), especially now during the advent of Climate Change, as requiring a vigilant and integrated approach aimed at **building resilience of communities** to potential hazards and to reduce **underlying risk factors** which are the root cause of most disasters dominating the world news.

**Chairperson,**

In implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action in the last two years, we in Lesotho are nearing completion of the legal framework for effective DRR in the country. The country has also completed the integration of DRR into the medium term National Strategic Development Plan 2012 – 2017.

Furthermore, the trials on the use of school curriculum containing DRR for Basic Education are on-going throughout the country. In the same vein, the process of integrating DRR in curriculum for higher grades up to the tertiary level is well in advance. In addition, we have begun the process of Community Owned Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis which is inclusive of Community Centered Early Warning Systems. Mainstreaming DRR into development programming at the sectoral level is also ongoing.

All of these processes are aimed at strengthening communities' resilience through enhancing their knowledge of DRR; the assessment of both their own vulnerabilities and capacities to withstand the effects of extreme weather events and through development of preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery plans at the local level.

Lesotho has also realized that information management and dissemination are key for effective DRR. Working together with the private sector and cooperating partners in establishing an information management system is proving to be

beneficial in addressing the need for provision of timely early warning information. Thus enabling communities to better prepare and put in place, mitigation and response strategies aimed at reducing disaster losses.

Our rural communities are most at risk of frequent and isolated extreme weather occurrences which result in destruction of houses and other property. The cumulative impact of such events is a major cause of losses that destroy livelihoods and erode any economic advancement or gains of the affected households. This contributes to an increase in poverty levels which in turn results in very low levels of resilience.

**In concluding Chairperson**, we in Lesotho, believe that **Building** partnerships with the private sector in DRR; **Strengthening** early warning information management and dissemination; **Mainstreaming** DRR into national and sectoral planning; **Strengthening** strategies aimed at building sustainable livelihoods, **Reducing** underlying risk factors; and **Empowering** communities to dictate their preferred course of building resilience are vital **and** should also form part of the world's priorities for programming post 2015.

**I thank you for your attention.**