

Universal Periodic Review – 21st Session

Statement by Ireland on the review of Lesotho

21 January 2015

Ireland welcomes the delegation of Lesotho and thanks it for its presentation.

While congratulating Lesotho for the progress achieved towards gender equality, particularly in the fields of primary education and local political representation, Ireland remains concerned at the level of discrimination that women still encounter in the public and private sphere.

Ireland **recommends** that Lesotho lift the reservation on Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; review and repeal all sections of the Constitution and other remaining discriminatory provisions that allow discrimination based on gender; and include in the Constitution, and/or other appropriate legislation, prohibition of both direct and indirect discrimination on grounds of gender.

Ireland welcomes Lesotho's efforts to tackle the high rates of infant and maternal mortality in the country and its commitment to reduce child and maternal mortality by at least 25 percent by 2017. We note in particular that child mortality rates in Lesotho remain alarmingly high.

Ireland **recommends** that Lesotho take action at all levels to address the interlinked root causes of preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 and consider applying the "Technical guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age", A/HRC/27/31.