



STATEMENT BY H.E. HON. MOKOTO HLOAELE

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**AT THE TWENTY FOURTH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE
PARTIES (COP24) TO THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK
CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE FOURTEENTH
SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE KYOTO PROTOCOL (CMP14)**

KATOWICE, POLAND

2ND TO 14TH DECEMBER 2018

Mr. President, Your Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. President, on your election as the President of COP 24, and I am confident that you will lead this process in an open, transparent and inclusive manner. I also assure you of my delegation's full cooperation and commitment in reaching an agreed outcome in Katowice.

The fifth assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that the climate system, including the atmosphere and the oceans, have warmed, and sea levels have risen. The report further indicates that limiting warming to 1.5°C is possible, provided immediate robust actions to reduce emissions are taken, and this should be done in accordance with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities.

We therefore urge Annex I Parties to demonstrate leadership and raise their level of ambition to the scale required by science and equity. It is alarming to note that, as we become more aware of the intrinsic need to combat climate change, our actions are not commensurate with the essential level of commitment to the objectives agreed under the Convention and the Paris Agreement.

Mr. President,

At local level, we are experiencing extreme weather events, prolonged droughts and frequent floods are normal features of our climate in Lesotho. The recent intense drought of the year 2015/2016 and the current El Nino, are rude reminder that climate change is real. It is estimated that more than 300,000 people in Lesotho will face food shortage until April next year.

Despite the challenges we face, Lesotho is voluntarily implementing a number of initiatives to adapt and reduce greenhouse gases. My country's Nationally Determined Contributions and National Climate Change Policy, have outlined both adaptation and mitigation actions, clearly indicating our proposed efforts as a country to address these parameters in a balanced manner. However, the implementation of these initiatives requires both financial and technical resources. Lesotho therefore invites development partners to invest in these initiatives.

In Paris, the world laid down a blueprint of clear actions needed to address climate change under the Paris Agreement. Here in Katowice, we must finalise the structure that will bring the spirit and vision of the Paris Agreement to life - achieving the 1.5°C temperature goal and protecting communities across the world from the devastating impacts of climate change.

The ‘Talanoa Dialogue’, inspired by the Pacific concept of constructive discussion, debate and story-telling, should continue here in Poland, to promote national climate actions needed to put the world on track to meet pre-2020 ambition and the long-term goals of the two-year old Paris Agreement.

Mr. President,

In conclusion, we need commitments and united efforts on the on-going means of implementation in the form of financial resources, technology transfer and capacity building, for the period beyond 2020, to enable developing countries to implement their contributions.

I thank you