STATEMENT BY THE HONOURABLE JUSTICE NTHOMENG MAJARA, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO AT THE WORLD LEADERS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT DURING COP31, ANTALYA, TÜRKIYE - 12 NOVEMBER 2026.

Your Excellency, Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, President of the Republic of Türkiye;

Your Excellencies, Heads of State and Government;

Your Excellency, Mr. António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations;

Your Excellency, Mr. Murat Kurum, President of COP31 and Minister of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change of the Republic of Türkiye;

The Honourable Mr. Chris Bowen, Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia and President of Negotiations for COP31;

Honourable Ministers;

The Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change;

Heads and Representatives of International and Regional Organisations;

Distinguished Delegates;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to address this World Leaders Climate Action Summit on behalf of the Kingdom of Lesotho. I bring warm greetings and best wishes from His Majesty King Letsie III, The Right Honourable the Prime Minister, Mr. Sam Ntsokoane Matekane, and the people of the Kingdom of Lesotho.

At the outset, allow me to express our sincere appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Türkiye, in collaboration with the Government of Australia, for hosting this important conference and for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements extended to us here in Antalya. We commend both countries for their leadership in bringing the international community together at this critical moment for global climate action.

Your Excellencies,

Lesotho reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the Paris Agreement and to strengthening collective efforts to address the climate crisis. As a mountainous, landlocked Least Developed Country, Lesotho continues to suffer the effects of climate change, despite contributing negligibly to

global greenhouse gas emissions. We continue to experience the adverse effects of changing rainfall patterns, recurrent droughts, floods, land degradation and rising climate-related risks to livelihoods, food production and water security.

Our national circumstances underscore a fundamental principle of climate justice: countries that have contributed least to the problem should not bear a disproportionate burden of its consequences. Global climate action must therefore be guided by equity and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, considering national circumstances.

In response, Lesotho is strengthening its national climate response through the implementation of its National Adaptation Plan, with priorities that include climate-resilient agriculture, water security, early warning systems, sustainable land management and resilient infrastructure. As a mountainous country, we also recognise the importance of protecting our mountain ecosystems, wetlands and water catchments, which sustain communities and contribute to wider regional water security.

On mitigation, our updated Nationally Determined Contribution commits Lesotho to reducing emissions by 6 per cent below business-as-usual levels by 2030 through domestic resources, with the potential to increase this ambition to 24 per cent, subject to adequate international support. We are pursuing opportunities in renewable energy, energy efficiency and clean cooking, while seeking to expand access to affordable and sustainable energy. These efforts demonstrate our willingness to contribute to the global response, even as we continue to address pressing development priorities.

However, ambition alone cannot deliver the transformation required. The ability of developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries, to implement their climate commitments depends on the availability of new, adequate, predictable and accessible means of implementation.

Against this background, Lesotho wishes to highlight four priorities for COP31:

- **Climate finance must be scaled up and made more accessible. We call for predictable, adequate and predominantly grant-based financing that responds to the needs of the most vulnerable countries. Financing arrangements must not exacerbate debt vulnerabilities or impose complex requirements that prevent countries with limited institutional capacity from accessing available resources.**

- **Adaptation must be elevated as an urgent global priority. For countries such as Lesotho, adaptation is essential to protecting lives, livelihoods and development gains. We therefore call for increased support for the implementation of National Adaptation Plans, climate-resilient agriculture, water security, ecosystem restoration, mountain resilience and effective early warning systems. Investment in adaptation today will reduce future losses and strengthen the resilience of vulnerable communities.**
- **The international community must deliver meaningful support for addressing loss and damage. The Fund for responding to Loss and Damage must be adequately resourced, with simplified access arrangements and timely disbursement. Support should reach affected communities, particularly those facing climate impacts that exceed their capacity to adapt. For vulnerable countries, this is not merely a matter of financial assistance; it is an essential component of climate justice and solidarity.**
- **We must accelerate ambitious mitigation and ensure a just and inclusive energy transition. This requires scaled-up investment in renewable energy, energy efficiency, clean cooking and appropriate technologies. The transition must expand affordable energy access, create economic opportunities and safeguard livelihoods, while enabling developing countries to pursue sustainable development pathways.**

Your Excellencies,

Achieving these priorities requires renewed multilateral cooperation, stronger partnerships and a shared determination to translate global commitments into measurable action.

As we look beyond COP31, we must ensure that the outcomes of this Summit translate into tangible support for countries and communities on the frontline of climate change. The credibility of the multilateral climate process will ultimately be measured not only by the commitments adopted, but by the resources delivered and the improvements made in people's lives.

Our message is clear: climate ambition must be matched by the means of implementation. Developing countries cannot be expected to deliver transformative climate action without adequate finance, technology transfer and capacity-building.

Let COP31 be remembered not only for the commitments we make, but for the resources we mobilise, the partnerships we strengthen and the practical action we deliver.

Together, let us turn our commitments into action and secure a climate-resilient and sustainable future for present and future generations.

I thank you.