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## Lesotho

### **Compilation of information prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **I. Background**

1. The present report was prepared pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions 5/1 and 16/21, taking into consideration the outcome of the previous review.<sup>1</sup> It is a compilation of information contained in relevant United Nations documents, presented in a summarized manner owing to word-limit constraints.

#### **II. Scope of international obligations and cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

2. The United Nations country team noted that Lesotho had made good strides towards ratifying all nine core international human rights treaties and some of the optional protocols thereto. Lesotho had enacted the Persons with Disability Equity Act (2021), which provided a legal framework to advance the rights of persons with disabilities. Through the Act, the Persons with Disability Advisory Council had been established to provide for equal opportunities and recognition of the rights of persons with disabilities.<sup>2</sup>

3. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Lesotho consider ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Committee expressed concern about reports indicating serious and escalating incidents of allegations of torture, ill-treatment and police brutality in recent years, without accountability.<sup>3</sup>

4. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) noted that Lesotho was party to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the Protocol relating to the Status of Refugees and the Organization of African Unity Convention Governing the Specific Aspects of Refugee Problems in Africa. Lesotho was also party to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons, with declarations and reservations in relation to articles 8, 9, 25 and 31. Furthermore, Lesotho had, in September 2004, acceded to the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. In February 2012, Lesotho had ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention).<sup>4</sup>

5. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) encouraged Lesotho to ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education, to consider



enshrining the right to education within the Constitution and legislation and to legally proscribe discrimination in education.<sup>5</sup>

### **III. National human rights framework**

#### **1. Constitutional and legislative framework**

6. The United Nations country team reported that the process of establishing a human rights commission in Lesotho had been ongoing since 2011. In September 2024, the National Assembly had adopted a bill establishing a national human rights institution. The bill would now proceed for a third and final reading in the Senate and then, once approved, for royal assent. The United Nations country team encouraged Lesotho to expedite the process of establishing and operationalizing the national human rights institution.<sup>6</sup>

#### **2. Institutional infrastructure and policy measures**

7. The United Nations country team noted that in August 2021, the Cabinet had approved the establishment of an interministerial committee to serve as the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up, with a secretariat within the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights. While progress had been made on State party reporting, a number of reports to treaty bodies remained overdue.<sup>7</sup>

8. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho take the measures necessary to strengthen the capacity of the interministerial committee that served as the national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up and work towards the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies.<sup>8</sup>

### **IV. Promotion and protection of human rights**

#### **A. Implementation of international human rights obligations, taking into account applicable international humanitarian law**

##### **1. Equality and non-discrimination**

9. The United Nations country team stated that Lesotho continued to make progress on equality and non-discrimination. That progress was reflected in the various pieces of legislation that had been promulgated in recent years, including the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act (2022), the Labour Act (2024) and the Administration of Estates and Inheritance Act (2024). In 2021, the Persons with Disability Equity Act was enacted, with the aim of addressing the multiple challenges faced by persons with disabilities, including with regard to education and access to justice.<sup>9</sup>

10. The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism stated that persons with albinism experienced serious barriers – including stigmatization and discrimination due to colour and visual impairment, lack of access to healthcare, including sunscreen and visual aids, and lack of access to education and employment – which had, in turn, led to poverty.<sup>10</sup>

11. The Independent Expert observed that many measures to address such barriers were relatively achievable and inexpensive to implement, such as providing reasonable accommodation in schools and workplaces and holding a robust nationwide campaign to educate and raise awareness on the cause of albinism and on care for persons with albinism.<sup>11</sup>

12. The Independent Expert noted that although there were some encouraging testimonies, she had heard about far more cases involving bullying, microaggressions, othering and emotional trauma. She had met persons with albinism who were segregated within their own homes owing to their albinism, mothers who had been abandoned because their children had been born with albinism, and young learners who had dropped out of school

because of bullying and lack of financial means. She had found that challenges were more acute in rural areas.<sup>12</sup>

## **2. Right to life, liberty and security of person, and freedom from torture**

13. Recalling the killing of a student by police at the National University of Lesotho during a student demonstration in June 2022 and the shooting of a factory worker during strike protests in 2021, the Human Rights Committee expressed concern about the use of live ammunition and excessive force by law enforcement officers in dispersing demonstrations. It also expressed concern about the lack of effective investigations and prosecutions into those cases.<sup>13</sup>

14. The Human Rights Committee urged Lesotho to ensure that allegations of excessive use of force during peaceful assemblies were thoroughly investigated, responsible officers prosecuted and victims compensated.<sup>14</sup> The Committee recommended that Lesotho take urgent measures to investigate promptly and thoroughly any reported case of extrajudicial killing and enforced disappearance, ensure that perpetrators were prosecuted and punished with sanctions commensurate with the gravity of the crime and ensure that victims received full reparations, including adequate compensation.<sup>15</sup>

15. The United Nations country team noted that Lesotho had yet to adopt specific legislation against torture that criminalized torture as defined in international human rights instruments, and had yet to repeal all provisions relating to corporal punishment. Despite the fact that the Police Complaints Authority had been established, reports of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment continued. There were also reports of harsh and life-threatening conditions in prisons.<sup>16</sup>

16. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho take specific measures to improve conditions in detention facilities.<sup>17</sup>

17. The Human Rights Committee noted that it remained concerned by the fact that corporal punishment was still allowed of both adults, in the penal system, and children, including at home, and by the lack of legislation that explicitly prohibited corporal punishment in all settings.<sup>18</sup>

18. In that regard, the same Committee expressed particular concern about section 16 (2) of the Children's Protection and Welfare Act (2011) and section 32 of the Penal Code Act (2010). The Committee recommended that Lesotho repeal legislation allowing for corporal punishment and enact legislation that explicitly and clearly prohibited all forms of corporal punishment of children and adults in all settings, and conduct awareness-raising campaigns about the harmful effects of corporal punishment.<sup>19</sup>

## **3. Administration of justice, including impunity, and the rule of law**

19. The United Nations country team noted that Lesotho had stated in a report to the Human Rights Committee that it did not have a judicial training institute. The magistracy and the highest judiciary bodies comprised professionals from law schools, who were appointed by the Judicial Service Commission. Judicial training sessions were rare, and the judiciary continued to face financial challenges. It therefore recommended that Lesotho take specific measures to strengthen the capacity of the judicial system.<sup>20</sup>

20. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Lesotho consider prioritizing an increase in the national budget dedicated to the administration of justice, in order to provide it with adequate human and financial resources and support its effective and timely functioning, including by improving access to justice through the provision of adequate legal aid, and reducing the significant delays in the administration of justice, the treatment of judicial affairs and the delivery of judgments.<sup>21</sup>

## **4. Fundamental freedoms and the right to participate in public and political life**

21. The same Committee recommended that Lesotho prevent and eliminate the excessive use of force by law enforcement officers, including by providing appropriate training, in line with the Committee's general comment No. 37 (2020) on the right of peaceful assembly, the Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials and the

United Nations Human Rights Guidance on Less-Lethal Weapons in Law Enforcement; and ensure that allegations of excessive use of force during peaceful assemblies, including strikes by workers and student demonstrations, were investigated promptly, thoroughly and impartially, that those allegedly responsible were prosecuted, and, if found guilty, punished appropriately, and that the victims obtained redress.<sup>22</sup>

22. UNESCO encouraged Lesotho to revise existing legislation – including the Official Secrets Act (1967), the Public Service Act (2005), the Sedition Proclamation (1938), the Parliamentary Powers and Privileges Act (1994) and the Internal Security (General) Act (1984) – in particular to address the use of undefined and overly broad terminology, which could restrict the exercise of freedom of expression in ways that were incompatible with international human rights law.<sup>23</sup>

23. UNESCO recommended that Lesotho decriminalize defamation and place it within civil defamation legislation, in accordance with international standards. It encouraged Lesotho to continue to investigate the cases of killing of journalists and to voluntarily report on the status of judicial follow-up to UNESCO and under monitoring processes in relation to indicator 16.10.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals.<sup>24</sup>

24. UNESCO encouraged Lesotho to consider making use of the United Nations Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity as a means of strengthening the protection of journalists and the relevant domestic legal framework.<sup>25</sup>

25. The United Nations country team noted that although the Constitution guaranteed freedom of opinion, expression and access to information, several gaps remained. Lesotho had no specific law on access to information, which made obtaining such access difficult for citizens, civil society, human rights defenders, the media and others. Concerns had been raised that the bill of 2022 on computer crime and cybersecurity limited civic space.<sup>26</sup>

26. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho expedite the adoption of the bill on receipt of and access to information, to facilitate effective enjoyment of the right of access to information, and ensure that provisions of the bill fully complied with international human rights standards.<sup>27</sup>

## **5. Right to marriage and family life**

27. UNESCO recommended that Lesotho amend legislation to ensure that the minimum age of marriage was 18 years old.<sup>28</sup>

## **6. Prohibition of all forms of slavery, including trafficking in persons**

28. The United Nations country team reported that in 2011, Lesotho had enacted the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, which criminalized child sex trafficking. Standard operating procedures on response to trafficking in persons had been published to support law enforcement personnel, and it set out both the legislative and practical measures that should guide law enforcement agencies when supporting trafficked persons. Lesotho had enacted legislation such as the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act (2011) to domesticate its international commitments in relation to combating trafficking in persons and had launched the National Strategic Framework and Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons. There was a significant backlog of trafficking cases and a need for additional service providers to support to trafficking victims.<sup>29</sup>

29. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho continue to provide human rights training to the police law enforcement officials involved in responding to trafficking incidents and continue to strengthen the national database of trafficking cases.<sup>30</sup>

## **7. Right to an adequate standard of living**

30. The United Nations country team noted that despite the Lesotho Food and Nutrition Strategy and Costed Action Plan (2019–2023), little progress had been made in enhancing domestic food security. Low agricultural productivity led to rising food prices owing to the dependence of Lesotho on food imports. Malnutrition remained one of the main contributors to child mortality. Whereas the under-5 mortality rate had dropped significantly since 2019,

infant and child mortality rates remained high, and could be ascribed to preventable causes such as high rates of malnutrition, food insecurity and rickets.<sup>31</sup>

31. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho continue to invest in the agricultural sector, including in respect of irrigation infrastructure and well-developed agro-industries, and expand sustainable nutrition and food security programmes to benefit children in all districts, including remote rural areas.<sup>32</sup>

## **8. Right to health**

32. The United Nations country team noted that Lesotho had the third highest maternal mortality ratio in sub-Saharan Africa, despite high antenatal care coverage, with between 82 per cent and 92 per cent of babies delivered by skilled birth providers. The high maternal mortality ratio was attributed to poor quality of care, child marriage, unintended pregnancies resulting in unsafe abortions, and an unmet need for family planning among adolescents, who had limited access to sex education.<sup>33</sup>

33. According to the United Nations country team, Lesotho had made good progress towards the global goal of ending AIDS by 2030. While the country was on track to reach global targets, national progress was marked by inequalities, particularly among men, children, female sex workers and men who had sex with men. Moreover, HIV remained a leading cause of death. Women continued to face barriers to access to healthcare facilities and were disproportionately affected by HIV.<sup>34</sup>

34. The United Nations country team noted that the new Counter Domestic Violence Act (2022) criminalized the transmission of HIV.<sup>35</sup>

35. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho strengthen efforts to improve access to basic healthcare services for all children, women, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups and in rural areas, and improve access to family planning services.<sup>36</sup>

## **9. Right to education**

36. UNESCO noted that the Constitution did not enshrine the right to education. It contained a provision on non-discrimination and an equality principle. No legal provision that enshrined the right to education had been identified.<sup>37</sup>

37. UNESCO noted that the Education Act (2010) created an obligation for professionals in the education sector to ensure that learners were free from discrimination. The Act made primary school compulsory from the age of 6 years for a duration of seven years. The Act was designed to implement free education at primary level, but it was not guaranteed. No legal provision had been identified that guaranteed either free or compulsory pre-primary education.<sup>38</sup>

38. The United Nations country team noted that Lesotho faced significant challenges with regard to education in terms of access to and outcomes of learning. Quality education was hampered by the narrow scope and insufficiency of government investment in public education and excessive reliance on households and the private sector. The quality of learning and skills development was of concern.<sup>39</sup>

39. The United Nations country team noted that many girls left school because of early marriage and early pregnancy. Marriage was the third most common reason for girls to drop out of secondary school, and pregnancy was the fourth. Boys left school because they commenced working as child labourers or began to manage livestock herds. The proportion of out-of-school children at the secondary level among rural households was more than double that among urban households. There was limited access for children with disabilities to inclusive education, in particular at the secondary level, owing to a lack of assistive devices and well-trained specialized teachers.<sup>40</sup>

40. UNESCO noted that through previous recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review mechanism, Lesotho had been encouraged to maintain and intensify measures to enhance the right to education for all, to organize outreach campaigns to promote increased access for children in rural areas, to provide sufficient funds and

subsidies to ensure children's access to preschool, secondary and higher education and to take special measures to ensure that children remained in schools, especially in rural areas. In that regard, the government plan for the education sector's response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic had included short-, medium- and longer-term strategies, focusing on remote, rural and hard-to-reach areas, child protection and support, and the implementation of accelerated learning programmes in the long term.<sup>41</sup>

41. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho address the hidden costs of education, in rural areas, provide sufficient funding to the education sector, address factors contributing to low enrolment rates at the secondary level and take effective measures to increase children's enrolment at all levels.<sup>42</sup>

42. UNESCO urged Lesotho to guarantee in legislation at least 12 years of free primary and secondary education and at least nine years of compulsory education, and to introduce legislation to make pre-primary education free and compulsory for at least one year.<sup>43</sup>

## **10. Cultural rights**

43. UNESCO encouraged Lesotho, as a State party to the Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1972), the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2003) and the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), to fully implement the relevant provisions that promoted access to and participation in cultural heritage and creative expressions and, as such, were conducive to the implementation of the right to take part in cultural life, as defined in article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 15 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.<sup>44</sup>

44. UNESCO encouraged Lesotho, in doing so, to give due consideration to the participation of communities, practitioners, cultural actors, civil society organizations and vulnerable groups, including minorities, Indigenous Peoples, migrants, refugees, young people and persons with disabilities, and to ensure that equal opportunities were given to women and girls to address gender disparities.<sup>45</sup>

## **11. Development, the environment, and business and human rights**

45. The Human Rights Committee noted the efforts carried out by Lesotho to combat corruption; however, it expressed concern about reports indicating that the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences still lacked the capacity to effectively investigate and prosecute corruption cases, which undermined its operational independence and its capacity to fully combat corruption, and that the Directorate also faced serious financial constraints. The Committee noted that a bill on the prevention of corruption and economic offences had been drafted in 2019, which had been aimed at addressing challenges faced by the Directorate.<sup>46</sup>

46. The same Committee recommended that Lesotho step up its efforts to prevent and eradicate corruption at all levels, including through the effective implementation of legislative and preventive measures to combat corruption, including by adopting the bill on the prevention of corruption and economic offences, and promote good governance, transparency and accountability; strengthen the capacity, autonomy and financial and human resources of the Directorate on Corruption and Economic Offences; and ensure that all cases of corruption were promptly and duly tried and the perpetrators adequately punished.<sup>47</sup>

## **B. Rights of specific persons or groups**

### **1. Women**

47. The United Nations country team noted that the Government had established the Gender and Child Protection Unit within the police, but that the country had only one shelter for victims of gender-based violence.<sup>48</sup>

48. The United Nations country team noted that the Government had adopted the Counter Domestic Violence Act, in 2022, to provide for the protection of survivors and their rights,

prevention and related matters. According to Afrobarometer, gender-based violence was viewed in Lesotho as the most important issue relating to women's rights for the Government and society to address. Lesotho had also adopted the Harmonization of the Rights of Customary Widows with the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act and the Gender and Development policy (2018–2030).<sup>49</sup>

49. According to the United Nations country team, notwithstanding legal and policy instruments in place, the levels of violence against women and girls remained high, including a high number of cases of domestic violence.<sup>50</sup> The Human Rights Committee noted with grave concern the high degree of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence and child marriage. The Committee also expressed concern that victims were mostly reluctant to report incidents for fear of stigmatization or loss of financial support. The Committee called upon Lesotho to investigate all such abuses and encourage women and girls to report domestic and sexual violence. It also requested Lesotho to expand shelters nationwide and provide adequate free legal aid to those in need.<sup>51</sup>

50. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho fully implement the Counter Domestic Violence Act.<sup>52</sup>

51. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Lesotho, bearing in mind paragraph 8 of the Committee's general comment No. 36 (2018) on the right to life, amend its legislation to guarantee safe, legal and effective access to abortion, including in rural and remote areas, where the life and health of the pregnant woman or girl was at risk, or where carrying a pregnancy to term would cause the pregnant woman or girl substantial pain or suffering, most notably where the pregnancy was the result of rape or incest or where the pregnancy was not viable.<sup>53</sup>

52. The same Committee recommended that Lesotho strengthen non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, including affordable contraception and reproductive healthcare services, paying particular attention to improving the maternal mortality and infant mortality rates, postnatal checks, immunizations and post-abortion healthcare, including in rural areas, and establish State control of the private clinics where illegal and unsafe abortions took place.<sup>54</sup>

53. The United Nations country team noted that equal representation and participation of women in public and political life had not been yet reached. Only 30 of the 120 seats (25 per cent) in the National Assembly and 8 of the 33 seats (24 per cent) in the Senate were currently held by women. Only 3 out of 20 ministers were women.<sup>55</sup>

## 2. Children

54. The United Nations country team noted that children in Lesotho continued to experience violence in their homes, schools and communities.<sup>56</sup>

55. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Lesotho intensify efforts to eliminate forced labour and all forms of child labour, in particular commercial sexual exploitation, cattle herding and domestic service, including by increasing labour inspections and by establishing an effective, easily accessible and child-friendly complaint mechanism, available throughout the country, including in rural and remote areas.<sup>57</sup>

56. The United Nations country team reported that the Children's Protection and Welfare Act was currently undergoing a process of amendment. Under the amendment bill, all child-related legislation and the definition of the child had been harmonized. The elimination of all forms of discrimination against children had been considered by repealing all discriminatory clauses, especially those related to girls, except for those on inheritance. Reference to the "justifiable" discipline of children had been removed under the bill as part of the amendment, making corporal punishment illegal under all circumstances.<sup>58</sup>

57. The United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho expedite the passage into law of the bill amending the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, in order to effectively protect children.<sup>59</sup>

58. The United Nations country team noted that there had been a significant rise in birth registration in recent years. The proportion of children under the age of 5 years registered increased from 41 per cent in 2019 to 65 per cent in 2023.<sup>60</sup>

59. The United Nations country team noted that newborns, other children and adolescents remained left behind. It was estimated that more than 4,000 children in Lesotho had never received the required immunizations, and the rate of full immunization stood at approximately 72 per cent. While the country had attained epidemic control of HIV, children and adolescents – in particular girls and young women – remained disproportionately at risk of acquiring HIV. Despite universal access to antiretroviral therapy, inequalities persisted.<sup>61</sup>

60. In that context, the United Nations country team recommended that Lesotho strengthen integrated child-sensitive and gender-responsive protection services, amend the Children's Protection and Welfare Act, and mobilize and allocate resources to implement the five-year National Prevention and Response Plan on Violence against Children (2023–2028).<sup>62</sup>

### **3. Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons**

61. The Human Rights Committee recommended that Lesotho combat all forms of stigmatization and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, gender and disability and against older women, sex workers and people living with HIV, including by increasing awareness-raising activities and ensuring that any act of discrimination and violence was investigated, that perpetrators were brought to justice and that victims were provided with redress; and repeal the provision on sodomy from the Sexual Offences Act (2003).<sup>63</sup>

### **4. Migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers**

62. UNHCR welcomed the Government's non-encampment policy, designed to provide temporary shelter and basic assistance to new arrivals, after which they were expected to integrate into host communities, with the exception of vulnerable groups such as older persons or those who were chronically ill.<sup>64</sup>

63. UNHCR noted that refugees in Lesotho enjoyed access to basic healthcare, education and other services provided by the Government. Refugees also had the right to work, provided that they obtained work permits. Those rights and access enhanced protection, provided for integration opportunities and served as a good practice model for refugee integration and opportunity in the region. Access to tertiary education for refugees was a challenge as they did not have access to bursary loans on an equal basis with nationals.<sup>65</sup>

64. UNHCR noted that despite legal provisions allowing refugees to apply for citizenship in Lesotho, barriers persisted that prevented eligible refugees from being naturalized. Key affected groups included refugees married to Basotho nationals of Lesotho, their children, and children of former refugees who were now naturalized. Many had faced prolonged delays in receiving decisions on their applications, with some family members approved while others were left in limbo, the effects of which could affect their right to family life, as enshrined in international human rights instruments to which Lesotho was party, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.<sup>66</sup>

65. UNHCR recommended that Lesotho introduce regulations to establish clear, reasonable timelines for processing applications for naturalization and transparent decision-making processes to prevent undue delays. Particular attention should be given to cases where nuclear family members applied together, ensuring that all applications were processed concurrently and equitably. Further efforts should also be made to provide clarification around and further publicize the bill of 2018 on immigration and citizenship.<sup>67</sup>

### **5. Stateless persons**

66. UNHCR stated that, owing to a lack of a definite legal status in Lesotho, stateless persons were at risk of not being afforded the necessary protection. In addition, several practical gaps in the legislation on birth registration and nationality increased the risk of statelessness, particularly among children, and had implications for future generations in



Lesotho. The lack of a birth certificate affected the enjoyment of a variety of human rights, including access to education, healthcare and financial inclusion.<sup>68</sup>

67. UNHCR noted with concern that legislation to ensure universal, free and accessible birth registration, and the introduction of adequate safeguards against statelessness for children born in the territory, was yet to be adopted. It further noted that safeguards had not yet been introduced into processes for renouncing and changing citizenship. The reservations and declarations made by Lesotho in relation to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons could undermine protection from expulsion and socioeconomic and cultural rights. In addition, the Government had not yet established a procedure for the determination of statelessness or a domestic legal framework for the protection of stateless persons, in line with the standards set out in the Convention, to ensure that stateless persons could be identified and fully enjoy their human rights.<sup>69</sup>

68. UNHCR noted that at the high-level segment on statelessness of the seventieth session of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in 2019, Lesotho had pledged to complete a legal study on statelessness and citizenship to better understand and address the factors that left certain populations stateless, or at risk of statelessness, and to support comprehensive legal and constitutional reform.<sup>70</sup>

## Notes

- <sup>1</sup> [A/HRC/44/8](#) and [A/HRC/45/2](#).
- <sup>2</sup> United Nations country team submission for the universal periodic review of Lesotho, page 2.
- <sup>3</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), paras. 32 and 33.
- <sup>4</sup> UNHCR submission for the universal periodic review of Lesotho, p. 1.
- <sup>5</sup> UNESCO submission for the universal periodic review of Lesotho, para. 16.
- <sup>6</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 6.
- <sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 4.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 5.
- <sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 7.
- <sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/04/lesotho-removing-barriers-rights-persons-albinism-critical-improving-lives>.
- <sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>13</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/un-human-rights-committee-publishes-findings-brazil-burundi-colombia-cyprus>.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>15</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para. 30.
- <sup>16</sup> United Nations country team submission, paras. 12–14.
- <sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 14.
- <sup>18</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para. 35.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 35 and 36.
- <sup>20</sup> United Nations country team submission, paras. 11 and 14. See also [CCPR/C/LSO/2](#), para. 151.
- <sup>21</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para. 46 (a).
- <sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 28 (a) and (b).
- <sup>23</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 17.
- <sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 20 and 21.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 21.
- <sup>26</sup> United Nations country team submission, paras. 15 and 16.
- <sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 16.
- <sup>28</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 16.
- <sup>29</sup> United Nations country team submission, paras. 17 to 19.
- <sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 19.
- <sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- <sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 23.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 24.
- <sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.
- <sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 8.
- <sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, para. 25.
- <sup>37</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 2.
- <sup>38</sup> *Ibid.*, paras. 2–4.

- <sup>39</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 26.  
<sup>40</sup> Ibid., paras. 27 and 28.  
<sup>41</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 8.  
<sup>42</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 28.  
<sup>43</sup> UNESCO submission, para. 16.  
<sup>44</sup> Ibid., para. 22.  
<sup>45</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>46</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para. 11.  
<sup>47</sup> Ibid., para. 12.  
<sup>48</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 9.  
<sup>49</sup> Ibid. See also <https://www.afrobarometer.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/AD546-In-Lesotho-gender-based-violence-tops-womens-right-issues-needing-attention-Afrobarometer-31aug22.pdf>.  
<sup>50</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 10.  
<sup>51</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2023/07/un-human-rights-committee-publishes-findings-brazil-burundi-colombia-cyprus>.  
<sup>52</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 10.  
<sup>53</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para. 24.  
<sup>54</sup> Ibid.  
<sup>55</sup> United Nations country team, para. 5.  
<sup>56</sup> Ibid., para. 21.  
<sup>57</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para 42.  
<sup>58</sup> United Nations country team submission, para. 20.  
<sup>59</sup> Ibid., para. 10.  
<sup>60</sup> Ibid., para. 21.  
<sup>61</sup> Ibid., para. 22.  
<sup>62</sup> Ibid., para. 22.  
<sup>63</sup> [CCPR/C/LSO/CO/2](#), para 20.  
<sup>64</sup> UNHCR submission, p. 1.  
<sup>65</sup> Ibid., p. 1.  
<sup>66</sup> Ibid., p. 4.  
<sup>67</sup> Ibid., p. 4.  
<sup>68</sup> Ibid., p. 2.  
<sup>69</sup> Ibid., pp. 2 and 3.  
<sup>70</sup> Ibid., p. 3.
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