THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO STATEMENT DELIVERED AT THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

NEW YORK FROM 18-29 JUNE 2018.
Mr. President,

Allow me on behalf of my delegation to congratulate you on your election as the President of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects. We appreciate the manner in which you are steering proceedings of the Conference thus far.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the representative of Indonesia on behalf of NAM and the representative of the Republic of Mauritius on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President, my delegation appreciates the hard work done during the preparatory process leading to the Review Conference, especially regional meetings that were held during the process. Africa too, was not an exception.

Mr. President, on the national level, Lesotho remains fully committed in the implementation of the Programme of Action and shares the concerns of the international community that the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) poses a serious threat to both national and international security and stability. The illicit proliferation of SALW is often an unfortunate factor behind commission of mass atrocity crimes, forced displacement of civilians and grave human rights violations.

Mr. President, Lesotho has recently submitted her national report, which we concede it was long overdue. We are in the process of national reforms which amongst others includes reforms in the security sector. And as such the process will also look into the review of the existing national laws in order for them to conform to the requirements of international instruments on conventional arms.

Mr. President, Lesotho has identified the lack of required technical expertise as one of the obstacles in the implementation of the PoA and ITI by least developed and developing countries. To overcome this problem, Lesotho urges all parties involved in the prevention, combatting and eradication of the illicit
trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, to provide assistance and cooperation to ensure full and effective implementation of the provisions of the PoA and ITI. International assistance and cooperation is a key pillar to the full and effective implementation of the PoA. We commend those States and partners who continue to provide such assistance.

Mr. President, Lesotho underlines the importance of the Programme of Action and Sustainable Development Goals implementation synergies at regional and sub-regional levels, as well as mainstreaming gender issues in the development and implementation of small arms national policies.

My delegation also encourages promotion of meaningful participation and representation of women in small arms policy making, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action.

In conclusion, Mr. President, my delegation looks forward to engage in fruitful discussions during this Conference that will lead to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

I thank you for your attention.