

Human Rights Council – 15th session

Item 6 – UPR report on Lesotho

Oral statement delivered by Conectas Direitos Humanos

Mr. President,

Your Excellencies,

Conectas, in partnership with Lesotho civil society organizations working on Human Rights under the auspices of Lesotho Council of NGOs appreciates the accommodative stance the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho demonstrated to the views of civil society under the review process.

It will be in the best interest of the people of Lesotho and indeed in line with the commitment of the government to establish a vibrant human rights regime to accept all the recommendations under the draft report of May 2010 including those which the government had concerns over. We find all recommendations to be in line with other commitments of the country particularly under the African Peer Review Mechanism, and in binding instruments it has acceded to.

Chairperson,

Your Excellencies,

The recommendations that the government either does not support or will consider are generally on abolishing capital punishment, protecting rights of Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, Transsexuals, and Intersex (LGBTIs) persons, fighting Human trafficking in order to protect women and children, criminalization of Female Genital Mutilation, improvement of Human Rights reporting, decriminalization of defamation, use of Juvenile Training Centres as alternative care for children in conflict with the law, and withdrawal of the reservation on article two of the CEDAW.

The government of Lesotho has demonstrated in various local initiatives; policies, laws, programmes and campaigns and accession to many international instruments that it has taken a direction towards the ideal cherished by the very recommendations it has some concerns with.

In conclusion we wish to congratulate the government of Lesotho for its willingness to establish a broad based forum including civil society, government, academia and other sectors to push the participatory agenda of creating a regime respectful to human rights.

Thank you Mr. President,