

Statement on the VNR of Lesotho 2022, delivered by the Major Group for Children & Youth

We recognize the efforts made by the government of Lesotho and we are aware that The covid19 pandemic has impeded the fight to eradicate poverty and has placed a heavy burden on Lesotho to ensure equal access to opportunities for its citizens as many people have lost their jobs especially youth and many children especially girls have dropped out of school.

Lesotho faces gender disparities in education, increased gender-based violence and early marriage that urgently call for putting children, youth, girls and women at the heart of the sust dev agenda.

Lesotho, a country faced with extreme weather events, degradation and loss of biodiversity, has an urgent need to focus on marginalized communities, who are most affected by these vulnerabilities.

Our questions for the government of the Kingdom of Lesotho

What modalities did your government adopt to ensure meaningful participation of rightsholder groups, particularly those most affected by development challenges, in the elaboration of the VNR? What citizen-led engagement strategies have occurred to contribute to the national review process? What plans does your government have to follow- up the presentation of the VNR at national and subnational levels after the HLPF?

What are the specific initiatives taken to focus on the populations that are often discriminated against such as women, young persons, Indigenous Peoples, older persons, persons with disabilities, LGBTI people, persons discriminated on work and descent, migrants and refugees, as well as people in fragile and conflict-affected states, among others, including intersectionalities of these? What are the specific actions you are undertaking to reduce identified inequality gaps and what is your plan towards 2030 to eradicate all forms of inequality? What accessibility measures have you considered for addressing challenges that specific groups of population face? How can sustainable development efforts produce new ways to ensure that everyone has access to citizenship?