



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

Intervention by Mr. Lisema Lekhooana, Principal Secretary, Ministry of Natural Resources of the Kingdom of Lesotho on the Interactive Dialogue on “Water for sustainable development: valuing water, water-energy-food nexus and sustainable economic and urban development”, At the Sidelines of the United Nations Water Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action on “Water for Sustainable Development”, 2018-2028.

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Co-Chairs

Moderator

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The value of water is one topic that is considered less important in many quarters of our society, and this is more so with areas that have water in abundance. Where water is scarce, its value starts to be well appreciated because it affects the routine operations of life. It is in this case where the need for its allocation is of paramount importance to ensure that it meets all the needs.

The tariffs are set to instill the understanding of the value of water and to some extent to enable operation of the water supply infrastructure. While the tariff may easily signify the economic value of water, there are other areas of valuing of water which may not be regarded as important or may not be well understood. World's sustainable development largely depends on goods and services derived from its environment and natural resource base. The environment and natural resources are crucial in efforts to eradicate poverty. This therefore calls for a concerted effort and collaboration between government, private sector, civil society and NGOs to raise the issue to enlighten the people so that they start to appreciate the value of water.

Co-Chairs

Livelihood strategies and food security of the poor often depend directly on functioning ecosystems and the diversity of goods and ecological services they provide. Equally, water, food and energy security which are critical for development depend on natural endowment. The inter-linkage between water, energy and food (WEF) is inseparable and cannot be ignored. The WEF nexus

acknowledges that water security, food security and energy security are inextricably linked with water being the main stem through which energy and food are secured. Attainment of SDGs, particularly SDGs 1,2,3,6 and 7, is directly influenced by this nexus.

As I conclude, the greatest threat to the nexus is climate change which brings conditions that are difficult to cope with, more so by the least developed countries. Again, increasing world population is putting a very strong strain on the nexus and the LDC countries suffer the most, and lastly though not least, global conflicts are having a detrimental effect on the LDC especially African and Asian countries. A clarion call should therefore be made to developed countries to financially and technically support the LDCs for the development of other resources to secure more water, energy and food.

I THANK YOU