

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the onset, I wish to pay tribute to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres, for championing the Summit of the Future in his report entitled ‘Our Common Agenda 2021’. While not all our aspirations as individual countries may have found their way into the document, it is gratifying to note that after several months of intense negotiations, our respective delegations reached consensus on the Pact for the Future that represents our collective trajectory.

Mr. President,

Every modern organization starts from a Mission Statement that sets its clear objectives. The UN is not an exception in this regard. The purposes and principles of its Charter continue to be relevant in today's world. When the UN was formed in 1945, the expectations of all peoples of the world were high for an institution that promised an era of peace, security and the betterment of the living conditions of all peoples.

Having adopt the pact for the future, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in human history. This is a time to reflect on “the role of the

United Nations in the 21st century,” an institution in which much of humanity places great faith and hope for a brighter future.

Can we, then, confidently assert that such faith and hope are well-founded? Regardless of our answer, I believe it is within our power to make it so. As today’s challenges become increasingly global, the importance of multilateralism and solidarity has never been greater. In this connection, the UN should endeavor to break traditional tendencies and employ innovative strategies to give practical meaning to the lofty aspirations of the global citizenry as enshrined in the Charter. The Pact for the Future exhibits actionable commitments to respond to current and future global challenges and reflects the inter-connectiveness of the three pillars of the UN.

Mr. President,

The Summit of the Future presents an opportunity for the international community to revitalize and fortify the multilateral system, ensuring that the UN remains relevant, resilient, and capable of fulfilling its core mandate. We must, however, be cognizant of the fact that solving today’s problems with yesterday’s solutions will not yield the desired results. The COVID-19 pandemic served as a reminder that, in an inter-connected world, no one country can deal with global shocks alone. This is why we

must work together to defend multilateralism and resist inward-looking protectionist policies.

Given the challenges we are facing today, in implementing the SDGs, the window for action is narrowing. We must seize the opportunity of this Summit to bring back hope to our respective nations.

Mr President,

Please, allow me, to briefly share Lesotho's thoughts on key issues of the Pact adopted at the end of this Summit.

First; On sustainable development and financing for development.

We need to execute action-oriented strategies to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It is imperative that we, as a global community, unite in our efforts to address these issues.

Second; On international peace and security. A strong multilateral framework for peace and security issues must keep pace with the times and be equipped to respond to realities in the current geopolitical and security environment.

Third; On science, technology and innovation, and digital cooperation.

There is an urgent need to close the digital divide and to address the challenges of digital transformation. We therefore advocate for creating strong Digital Inclusion Policies that promote innovation and harness digital technologies for sustainable socio-economic development.

Lastly, on transforming global governance. We need to revitalize the international financial architecture. In this connection it is essential to update and expand the mandates of International Financial Institutions, in particular, the voices of the countries of the south must also be heard during decision making on issues that affect them.

We also support the submission that the current challenges facing the Security Council call for the restructuring of that organ to reflect the changed realities of present-day international relations. We call for a more representative UN Security council effective to deal with the current global security challenges.

In conclusion, Mr. President, I must emphasize the urgent need for a strengthened UN system that can respond effectively to the ever-evolving global challenges. It is, therefore, our collective responsibility to create a successful Pact for the Future that benefits both current and future generations.

Finally, Lesotho reaffirms its commitment to multilateralism to advance a collective vision of an effective United Nations to ensure a peaceful and prosperous world, for the present and future generations.