



## **Remarks of the Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment of the Kingdom of Lesotho, Mrs. Keketso Rantšo (MP)**

### **ILO African Regional Virtual Meeting**

**02<sup>nd</sup> July 2020**

#### **COVID-19 Crisis in Africa: Building Back Better**

1. COVID-19 has affected every country in the world in many areas of life. For our purposes the world of work has suffered massive job losses, and during times such as these, there is no doubt that we have to be on the look out to guard against decent work deficits. It is very important that for those workers who lose their jobs, they are supported by ensuring that their terminal benefits are paid on time. Where it is possible to change products to produce the ones that are in demand as a result of the pandemic, such opportunities should be taken advantage of.
2. Within the Ministries of Labour, the labour administration system should effectively enforce workers rights through labour inspections, effective dispute prevention and resolution and adjudication of labour disputes. The Ministries of labour should be supported with adequate budget allocation in order to contribute meaningfully to manage the effects of COVID-19.
3. The youth should be utilized to train workers on information technology as restricted travel between countries can be managed by doing business through technology. Gender equality should be promoted by ensuring that both men and women are supported on their loss of income by promoting gender neutral work opportunities.
4. Last but not least social dialogue should be used by Governments to seek the workers` and employers` inputs on intervention measures as well as and other key stakeholders before they are implemented. This will enable Governments to implement interventions that are practical and have wide stakeholder support.