

Country/entity Lesotho

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name The Electoral Pledge

Date 11 Dec 2014

Agreement status Multiparty signed/agreed

Interim arrangement Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Lesotho Crisis (1998)

After Lesotho became independent in 1966, the Basotho National Party (BNP) established a one-party-system that lasted for almost three decades. After being beaten in elections in 1998, street protests against the new government were initialized; paving the way for a coup attempt by a faction of the national army. The conflict escalated when South African and Botswanan troops intervened in support of the elected government and although the revolt was effectively dampened by the end of the year, the political situation has remained fragile since.

Close

Lesotho Crisis (1998)

Stage Framework/substantive - partial

Conflict nature Government

Peace process Lesotho process

Parties the Government of Lesotho and the Interim Political Authority (IPA) including the following parties;

All Basotho Convention [Signed]
 ACFD/BAENA [Not Signed]
 Basotho Congress Party [Signed]
 All Democratic Cooperation [Signed]
 African Unity Movement [Signed]
 Basotho Batho Democratic Party [Signed]

Basotho Democratic National Party [Signed]
 Basotho National Party [Signed]
 Basotho National African Congress [Signed]
 Democratic Congress [Signed]
 Lesotho Congress for Democracy [Signed]
 Lekhotla la Meetlo [Not Signed]
 Lesotho People's Congress [Signed]
 Lesotho Workers Party [Signed]
 Marematlou Freedom Party [Signed]
 National Independent Party [Signed]
 Progressive Democrats [Not Signed]
 Popular Front for Democracy [Signed]
 Sankatana Party [Not Signed]
 Whitehorse Party [Not Signed]

Third parties ENDORSED BY:

SADC Facilitator, Deputy President of South Africa, H. E. Cyril Ramaphosa [Signed]
 SADC Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES) Head of Mission, Mr. Fannie Phakola [Signed]

Witnessed by:

College of Chiefs [Not signed]
 Lesotho Council of NGOs [Signed]
 Christian Council of Lesotho [Signed]

Description -

Agreement document [LS_150200_Signed Electoral Pledge.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Anti-discrimination Page 5, PART THREE 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to: ... 21.7 Abstain from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign,...
Religious groups	Groups→Religious groups→Anti-discrimination Page 5, PART THREE 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to: ... 21.7 Abstain from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign,...
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.
Refugees/displaced persons	No specific mention.
Social class	Groups→Social class→Anti-discrimination Page 5, PART THREE 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to: ...21.7 Abstain from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign,...

Gender

Women, girls and gender	Page 5, PART THREE 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to: ... 21.7 Abstain from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign, and
Men and boys	No specific mention.
LGBTI	No specific mention.
Family	No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references
Page 5, PART THREE

- 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
- ... 21.3 Abstain from plagiarising the insignia of other parties,
- ... 21.6 refrain from using social or institutional power for political purposes,

Elections

Page 1, Untitled Preamble,

... NOTING that in terms of the Maseru Facilitation Declaration, parties agreed that the National Assembly Elections be brought forward and be held by the end of February 2015.

Page 1, Untitled Preamble,

... CONSCIOUS that the signatories to the Maseru Facilitation Declaration agreed that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has the responsibility to conduct these elections on a credible, free and fair basis.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... COGNISANT of the current situation, it is therefore imperative that all stakeholders further consolidate the gains that have been made by ensuring that a climate conducive for elections to take place on a free and fair basis is created and sustained.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... CONFIRMING that democratic elections require enhanced transparency, accessibility and credibility of election and democratic governance as well as the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties.

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... DESIROUS of assuring all Basotho of our dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and the conduct of peaceful, credible, free and fair elections,

Page 2, Untitled Preamble,

... COMMITTED to the principles set out in the Lesotho Electoral Code of Conduct, 2011,;

Page 2, PART ONE

WE, the signatories to this Pledge, commit to -

1. Honour the Constitution, the National Assembly Elections Act 2011, and other laws of the Kingdom of Lesotho in our conduct during the elections;
2. Observe the Electoral Code of Conduct;
3. Take all necessary steps to ensure the elections to be held on 28 February 2015 will reflect the will of the citizens of the Kingdom of Lesotho and will be credible, free and fair;
4. Accept our obligation to assist in promoting the creation of a climate conducive to the holding of free and fair elections;
5. Ensure there is no discrimination in the voters' registration;

Page 3, PART ONE

... 6. Ensure the voters' roll is up to date and accessible;

... 8. Refrain from taking any steps that may undermine the holding of free and fair elections and from taking any action directly or indirectly that shall militate against the creation of a climate that is conducive for free and fair elections to be held;

9. Refrain from showing prejudice or favour in the use of state resources and institutions, to pursue party political interests or act in any other manner that may jeopardise the holding of free and fair elections; and

10. Refrain from undertaking any actions that may undermine the stability of the institutions of the state and compromise the creation of an environment that is conducive for credible, free and fair elections, including the removal, appointment, demotion or promotion of key officials within the state during the period prior to the elections, subject to due and legal process being followed.

11. Ensure that public servants and officials do not conduct themselves in a manner that may undermine the stability of the institutions of the state and compromise the creation

Electoral commission	<p>Page 1, Untitled Preamble, ... CONSCIOUS that the signatories to the Maseru Facilitation Declaration agreed that the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) has the responsibility to conduct these elections on a credible, free and fair basis.</p> <p>Page 3, PART TWO Support for the Independent Electoral Commission WE, the signatories to this Pledge undertake that we shall 12. Respect and promote the independence of the IEC; 13. Support the IEC in its mandate to facilitate the holding of free and fair elections;</p> <p>Page 4, PART TWO, ... 14. Cooperate with the IEC and facilitate its access to campaign and electoral events; 15. Assist the IEC in obtaining the capacity it needs in order to fulfil its mandate and assisting it in securing its assets and the safety of its officials; 16. Ensure no person or organisation interferes with or impedes the work of the IEC; 17. Welcome and assist the work of any and all electoral monitors or observers that will come to the Kingdom of Lesotho; 18. Accept the results of the upcoming elections when declared credible, free and fair by the IEC and accredited independent observers; 19. Work within the bounds of accepted electoral rules to lodge any grievances that might reasonably arise from the electoral process.</p> <p>Page 4, PART TWO, ... 18. Accept the results of the upcoming elections when declared credible, free and fair by the IEC and accredited independent observers; 19. Work within the bounds of accepted electoral rules to lodge any grievances that might reasonably arise from the electoral process.</p>
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Witnessed by: ... Lesotho Council of NGOs [Signed]
Traditional/religious leaders	Page 7, Witnessed by: ... Christian Council of Lesotho [Signed] ...College of Chiefs [Not signed]
Public administration	Page 3, PART ONE ... 11. Ensure that public servants and officials do not conduct themselves in a manner that may undermine the stability of the institutions of the state and compromise the creation of an environment that is conducive for credible, free and fair elections.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 2, Untitled Preamble,
... DESIROUS of assuring all Basotho of our dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and the conduct of peaceful, credible, free and fair elections,

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation Page 2, Untitled Preamble,
... AFFIRMING and adhering to the principles adopted by the SADC and the AU, as set out in the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the OAU/AU Declaration on the Principle-s Governing Democratic Elections in Africa.

Civil and political rights Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Equality
Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
... 21.7 Abstain from discrimination on grounds of race, sex, ethnicity, class, gender or religion in the election campaign, and
Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Thought, opinion, conscience and religion
Page 4, PART THREE
Commitment to free and fair electoral political campaigning
WE the political parties signing this pledge commit to:
20. Comply with the provisions of the Lesotho Electoral Code of Conduct, 2011, and in particular to affirm the rights of all participants to -
20.1. express differing views, debate and contest each other's policies and programmes;
20.2 canvass freely for membership and support, hold meetings, rallies and marches, attend meetings of others;
20.3 distribute campaign literature and materials, publish notices and adverts and promote free campaigning within the law; and

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... CONFIRMING that democratic elections require enhanced transparency, accessibility and credibility of election and democratic governance as well as the acceptance of election results by all contesting parties. Page 2, Untitled Preamble, ... DESIROUS of assuring all Basotho of our dedication to democracy, the rule of law, and the conduct of peaceful, credible, free and fair elections,
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles Page 3, PART ONE ... 7. Facilitate all political parties' access to state media and other forms of disseminating their political views; Page 5, PART THREE 21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to: ... 21.3 Abstain from plagiarising the insignia of other parties,
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 1, Untitled Preamble,
... AWARE that the Maseru Facilitation Declaration called on all stakeholders to play their part in restoring political and security stability to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Page 1, Untitled Preamble,
... RECALLING that the Maseru Security Accord, dated 23 October 2014, was entered into between the security sectors specifically to stabilise the security situation in Lesotho.

Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
21.1. Refrain from language that incites violence or intimidation,
21.2. Refrain from carrying weapons at public political events,
...21.4 Discourage the removal, disfigurement or destruction of other parties' material,

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
... 21.8 Refrain from involving the Lesotho Defence Force, Lesotho Mounted Police service, National security Service and Lesotho Correctional Service in political activities.

Armed forces Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
... 21.8 Refrain from involving the Lesotho Defence Force, Lesotho Mounted Police service, National security Service and Lesotho Correctional Service in political activities.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
... 21.8 Refrain from involving the Lesotho Defence Force, Lesotho Mounted Police service, National security Service and Lesotho Correctional Service in political activities.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption Page 5, PART THREE
21. Undertake to repeatedly and publicly condemn violence, and to:
... 21.5 Abstain from offering material inducements to influence party membership,
event attendance, voting decisions or candidacy nominations,

**Crime/organised
crime** No specific mention.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

**Transitional justice
general** No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

**Other international
signatory** ENDORSED BY:
SADC Facilitator, Deputy President of South Africa, H. E. Cyril Ramaphosa [Signed]
SADC Mission to Lesotho (SOMILES) Head of Mission, Mr. Fannie Phakola [Signed]

Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.
International mission/force/similar	Page 4, PART TWO, ...17. welcome and assist the work of any and all electoral monitors or observers that will come to the Kingdom of Lesotho;
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	http://www.lcn.org.ls/news/Maseru%20SADC%20Facilitator/Signed%20Electoral%20Pledge.pdf
