

Country/entity	Lesotho
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Joint Statement on the Acceptance, in Principle, of the Lesotho Elections Timetable
Date	3 Dec 1999
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)
Third parties	-
Description	Short agreement confirming that opposing political parties agree to adhere to the electoral pledge.

Agreement document [LS_991203_Joint Statement.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** No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

**Women, girls and
gender** No specific mention.

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)

No specific mention.

Elections

Page 1, ... Following careful consideration of the advice submitted by elections experts, the Government of Lesotho and the Interim Political Authority (IPA) have accepted, in principle, a provisional Elections Time-Table prepared by two international experts who had been assigned for the task under the Agreement signed on 3rd December, 1999, between the two sides....

Page 1, ... The provisional timetable envisages the holding of elections in Lesotho in about 10-12 months beginning from 1st May 2000,

In accepting, in principle, the provisional time-table, the Government and the IPA recognise that the law pertaining to the Electoral Model has not yet been finalised, and the two parties underline the urgency for this resolution of the matter as soon as possible.

However, the two sides also agree that other matters, which do not hinge on the finalisation of the Electoral Model, can be perused with immediate effect. These include preparations for fresh registration of voters, and other related matters.

In consequence to the acceptance of the elections Time-Table, the Government and the IPA have also expressed the understanding that the IPA will continue with its mandate to prepare for elections, and that its life will come to an end one day after the announcement of election results as provided for in Section 22 of the IPA Act Number 16 of 1998.

The two sides appeal to all stakeholders, particularly political parties, to cooperate with and support the newly appointed Independent Electoral Commission it charts the way forward for the holding of free and fair elections.

Electoral commission

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Political parties reform

No specific mention.

Civil society

No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders

No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

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	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.

Corruption	No specific mention.
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	No specific mention.
Referendum for agreement	No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar	Page 1, ... The two experts, who completed their mission 3 weeks ago, were Dr Kwado Afari-Gyan, from Ghana and Professor Jorgen Elklit, from Denmark. They consulted extensively on the issue with all the relevant stakeholders. ...
Enforcement mechanism	No specific mention.
Related cases	No specific mention.
Source	Lesotho Government Website; http://www.gov.ls/documents/speeches/elections3dec1999.htm
