



Kingdom of Lesotho

The Kingdom of Lesotho is dedicated to fighting the illicit trade and trafficking of nuclear material. We draw attention to the initial report of States parties due in 1993, Addendum Lesotho:

“The Kingdom of Lesotho is a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and its Protocol of 1973, to ensure that nuclear weapons, which threaten life, are not produced. Lesotho ratified the Chemical Weapons Convention on 7 December 1994. In April 1996, Lesotho signed the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba).”

(Initial report of States parties due in 1993 Addendum Lesotho).

The CWC aims to eliminate an entire category of weapons of mass destruction by prohibiting the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons by States Parties. All States Parties have agreed to chemically disarm by destroying any stockpiles of chemical weapons they may hold and any facilities which produced them (Organization for the prohibition of chemical weapons). In almost 70% of the cases, illicit nuclear material is intercepted by police officers. Therefore, the Kingdom of Lesotho reckons that it should be essential to train this border-situated police and other officers appropriately. In order to increase efficiency, we call upon the international community to become more aware of the nuclear trafficking happening. We further recall the following statement in the non- proliferation review,

“There is a vital need for greater sharing and coordination of trafficking information among government agencies, international organizations, and academic/NGO research centers.”

(The non-proliferation review, Summer 2002)

According to the review, it is indeed essential “to construct a comprehensive and reliable picture of illicit nuclear trafficking”. We fully agree that a tighter network and flow of information will allow a more accurate anticipation and therefore preparation for any nuclear trafficking pattern. It will not only allow the detection and awareness of highly frequented traffic routes, which will have a much shorter span of life if information flows more rapidly amongst governments. But it will permit us to react quickly to a sudden new nuclear traffic route, as well. But also more generally the fact of sharing reports of previous nuclear recovery will allow a sharing of the context and approach in which the traffickers have worked and, therefore, it would be gaining some expertise from other countries’ experiences. The Kingdom of Lesotho emphasizes that the international community will be more efficient if it was more tightly bound and more communicative so that we can fight the illicit arm trafficking together.