 

1ST AFRICAN PREPARATORY MEETING FOR WRC-27

(APM27-1)

30th July – 2nd August 2024

AVANI MASERU HOTEL

MASERU (LESOTHO)

HOST COUNTRY INFORMATION



KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

BACKGROUND

### Lesotho is a landlocked country, nestled between the Drakensberg and Maloti Mountain ranges and entirely surrounded by South Africa. The country is of similar size to Belgium or Israel and has a population of over 2 076 669 inhabitants (est. Lesotho Population Survey 2021). Lesotho offers natural beauty, rugged terrain, and rich local culture and traditions.

Previously a British protectorate, the nation gained its independence in October 1966. Lesotho is a constitutional monarchy. The present constitution came into force in 1993, shortly after the return to multiparty democracy, and was amended in 2001 to introduce an element of proportional representation. The monarch is head of state, the succession being ratified by the College of Chiefs. The Prime Minister is head of government and appoints a cabinet.

Lesotho offers breath-taking mountain vistas and adventure activities such as skiing, pony trekking, hiking and abseiling for the intrepid traveller. More leisurely pursuits for those seeking a relaxing and revitalising break include birdwatching, boating and fishing.

## Basic facts

### Size: 30 355

Capital City: Maseru

### Population: 2 million; Maseru 436 000

Altitude: Lowest 1 388m; highest 3 482m

### Languages: Sesotho and English

Monetary Unit: Loti (plural: Maloti)

### Standard Power: 220/240 volt AC 50Hz

International Telephone Code: +266

### From within Lesotho for lnternational access: 00 (country code)

LANGUAGE

English and Sesotho (a Bantu language) are the official languages of the Kingdom of Lesotho; Zulu and Xhosa are also spoken by a limited number of people especially in the south of the country.

CLIMATE

### Temperatures vary widely from one geographical zone to another, and frequently within zones, depending on the altitude. In the lowlands, temperatures reach 32C° (90°F) or more in the summer and rarely fall below -6.6°C (20°F) in the winter. The range in the highlands is greater; temperatures can fall below -18°C (0°F) and frost and hail are frequent hazards. Rainfall is mostly concentrated in the months from October to April and the hottest months are January and February. Snow occurs in the highlands between May and September. In winter, from May to August, lows are slightly above freezing (0 °C or 32 °F), while highs are around 16/19 °C (61/66 °F). **It is advisable to pack a sweater and a warm jacket.**

TIME

Lesotho Standard Time is 2 hours ahead of [Greenwich Mean Time](http://wwp.greenwichmeantime.com/) (GMT + 2).

The Lesotho Government through the Department of Home Affairs - Immigration Services is mandated with the issuance of entry visas. Visa applications are processed and issued manually by the Department of Immigration. Applications may be hand delivered or emailed to [visa-applications.immigration@gov.ls](mailto:visa-applications.immigration@gov.ls) at least five (5) business days ahead of the intended date of travel to allow enough processing time.

VISAS

Once the applications have been approved, a visa on arrival letter (valid for 21 days) will be issued. This letter will permit entry at the Moshoeshoe I International Airport or Maseru Bridge. Within 72 hours of arrival in the country, travellers should report at the Department of Immigration for payments and endorsement of the actual Visas in the Passports.

1. List of minimum requirements for Visas:

* Invitation letter from ATU
* Passport copy of applicant
* Medical Report
* Medical insurance
* Itinerary
* South African transit visa (Bangladesh and Pakistan)

**NB:** Passport copies of the Applicants: The validity of the passport should be at least six (6) months ahead of the intended date of travel and should have at least 2 free pages.

1. Visa fees per Passport Category

* Ordinary passports: Traveller will be expected to Pay M1 000.00 for a Single-entry visa and M2 000.00 for a Multiple entry visa.
* Diplomatic/ Service/ Official Passports: Visas are granted On Gratis (free).

1. For more information on visa applications and list of countries that require Visas please go to the website below: <http://www.homeaffairs.gov.ls/immigration/>

CURRENCY

Official Currency: 1 Loti = 100 lisente

Lesotho is part of the Rand Monetary Area and the South African Rand is accepted as legal currency. Most of the major credit cards are widely accepted. There are no restrictions on the import of foreign currency.

Exchange rates as at 29 May 2024 were as follows:

1 United States Dollar = 18.24

1 British Pound = 23.28

1 Euro = 19.79

Consult the website of the Central Bank of Lesotho at <http://www.centralbank.org.ls/>on issues of currency and banks.

1 Euro =

BANKING, SHOPPING AND GOVERNMENT OFFICE HOURS

**Banking:** Monday to Friday 0830-1500 Saturday: 0830-1100

**Shops:** Monday to Friday: 0800-1700 Saturday: 0800-1300

**Malls:** Monday to Friday: 09:00 - 19:00, Saturdays: 09:00 - 18:00 Sundays: 09:00 - 17:00

**Government Offices:** Monday to Friday: 0800-1245 and 1400-1630

Lesotho has two major network operators which are Econet Telecom Lesotho and Vodacom Lesotho. Both companies offer a range of communication products such as fixed, mobile and data services. Their websites are [www.etl.co.ls](http://www.etl.co.ls/) and [www.vodacom.co.ls](http://www.vodacom.co.ls/). Lesotho has a SIM registration requirement for both pre-paid and post-paid SIM Cards. Delegates may obtain and register SIM cards by producing a valid passport. **Lesotho Country Code is +266**, whereas the Internet Code is .ls (See website: [www.nic.ls](http://www.nic.ls/))

COMMUNICATIONS

ELECTRICITY

In Lesotho, the standard voltage is 220 V and the frequency is 50 Hz. You can use your electric appliances in Lesotho, if the standard voltage in your country is in between 220 - 240 V (as it is in the UK, Europe, Australia and most of Asia and Africa). Lesotho uses a 3-pin South African round plugs.

INSURANCE

Delegates are reminded that they are responsible for their personal insurance of all aspects relating to their participation at these meetings, including travel. If you need medical care whilst in Lesotho, it is best to be aware that medical providers may not accept payment through your insurance company. In these circumstances you will have to pay in full after your treatment and file a claim with your insurance company for reimbursement. Therefore, you should have access to cash, either from a credit card or by wire transfer. If you need assistance contact the country's local embassy or representative.

It is advisable to always ensure you have a comprehensive travel insurance policy which covers you for repatriation to your home country.

TRAVEL LOGISTICS

Transport will be provided to delegates on arrival and departure from the Airport and from the designated/recommended hotels **ONLY** to the venue of the meeting.

VENUE, HOTELS AND ACCOMODATION

Lesotho has a number of comfortable hotels and guest houses in Maseru and surrounding areas. The venue for APM27-1 is **Avani Maseru Hotel** and below is a list of recommended hotels and guest houses.

Kindly note that delegates that shall opt to use hotels and guest houses outside the recommended ones, will also have to use their own transport to and from the conference venue.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hotel** | **Contact** | **Website** | **Rates (US$)/day** |
| Avani Maseru  \*\*\*\* | Tel.:+266 2224 3000  [maseru@avanihotels.c](mailto:maseru@avanihotels.com) [om](mailto:maseru@avanihotels.com) | [www.avanihotels.com/](http://www.avanihotels.com/en/maseru) [en/maseru](http://www.avanihotels.com/en/maseru) | 121 – 248 USD  inclusive of breakfast |
| Avani Lesotho  \*\*\*\*\* | Tel.: +266 2224 3000  [lesotho@avanihotels.c](mailto:lesotho@avanihotels.c) om | [www.avanihotels.com/](http://www.avanihotels.com/en/lesotho) [en/lesotho](http://www.avanihotels.com/en/lesotho) | 131 – 387 USD  Inclusive of breakfast |
| Lancer’s Inn  \*\*\* | Tel.: +266 2231 2114  [info@lancersinn.co.ls](mailto:info@lancersinn.co.ls) | [www.lancersinn.co.ls](http://www.lancersinn.co.ls/) | 99 USD  inclusive of  breakfast |
| Thabeng Hotel | Tel.:+266 62317748  info@thabeng.com | https://www.thabeng.com/ | 79 – 132 USD inclusive of breakfast |
| Black Swan B&B | Tel.: +266 2231 7700  [boeti@blackswan.co.ls](mailto:boeti@blackswan.co.ls) | [www.blackswan.co.ls](http://www.blackswan.co.ls/) | 48 USD  Inclusive of breakfast (rate applicable for direct  booking only) |
| [Hokahanya Inn & Conference Centre](https://www.booking.com/hotel/ls/kick4life-amp-conference-centre.en-gb.html?label=metagha-link-LULS-hotel-2002836_dev-desktop_los-1_bw-1_dow-Wednesday_defdate-1_room-0_gstadt-2_rateid-dg_aud-0_gacid-6623578704_mcid-10_ppa-0_clrid-0_ad-1_gstkid-0_checkin-20240522_ppt-G_lp-2426_r-9403766643309132544&sid=a1cc449eb640e5488cb75e5e6d8cec23&utm_source=metagha&utm_medium=localuniversal&utm_term=hotel-2002836&utm_content=dev-desktop_los-1_bw-1_dow-Wednesday_defdate-1_room-0_gstadt-2_rateid-dg_aud-0_gacid-6623578704_mcid-10_ppa-0_clrid-0_ad-1_gstkid-0_checkin-20240522_ppt-G&utm_campaign=LS&gclid=Cj0KCQjwjLGyBhCYARIsAPqTz1-oZ3yjgSNpbVOVcaMydJX9mNKfgl_s7js3H2FzdoK0BlMdzMv3SSIaAs-LEALw_wcB&aid=356938&ucfs=1&arphpl=1&checkin=2024-05-22&checkout=2024-05-23&dest_id=-1405824&dest_type=city&group_adults=2&req_adults=2&no_rooms=1&group_children=0&req_children=0&hpos=1&hapos=1&sr_order=popularity&srpvid=28ab769acef103ba&srepoch=1716310327&all_sr_blocks=200283601_218331259_2_1_0&highlighted_blocks=200283601_218331259_2_1_0&matching_block_id=200283601_218331259_2_1_0&sr_pri_blocks=200283601_218331259_2_1_0__96330&from_sustainable_property_sr=1&from=searchresults" \t "_blank)  ( Kick for Life) | Tel.: +266 22310488  [booking@kick4life.org](mailto:booking@kick4life.org) | https://www.kick4life.org/hokahanya/ | 46 – 49 USD inclusive of breakfast |
| Tribute Guest House | Tel. +266 2232 5356  +266 50172055 (WhatsApp)  [info@tributelesotho.co](mailto:info@tributelesotho.co) m | [www.tributelesotho.co](http://www.tributelesotho.co/) m | 42 USD  inclusive of breakfast |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Mohokare Guest House | Tel.: +266 2231 4442  [reception@mohokare.c](mailto:reception@mohokare.c) o.ls | www.mohokare. co.ls. | 48 – 63 USD inclusive of breakfast |
| Noble Hearts B&B | Tel.: +266 22316818 +266 58866632 (WhatsApp)  [info@noblehearts.co.ls](mailto:info@noblehearts.co.ls) |  | 43 – 53 USD  Inclusive of breakfast |
| San Antonio Guesthouse | Tel.: +266 2231 4661  bookings@sanantonio. co.ls |  | 47 USD  Inclusive of breakfast |
| City Stay | +266 53234201 (WhatsApp)  Citystaywest@gmail.com |  | 54 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Monono B&B | [+266](tel:+26622315039) 59384747 (WhatsApp)  [info@mononobnb.co.ls](mailto:info@mononobnb.co.ls) | https://www.mononobnb.co.ls/ | 48 – 66 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Green Lake Guest House | +266 62002665 (WhatsApp)  info@greenlakeguesthouse.co.ls | https://greenlakeguesthouse.co.ls/ | 53 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Scenery Guest Houes (Stadium) | +266 22316745/6  +266 53807041/2 (WhatsApp)  scenerygh@gmail.com | https://scenery.co.ls/ | 44 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Cyaara Guest House | Tel.:+266 57000055  info@citypride.co.ls | https://www.citypride.co.ls/ | 37 USD  Inclusive of breakfast |
| Greater Heights Guest House | +[266 5810 0200](https://www.google.com/search?q=greater+heights+guest+house&sca_esv=64160ab7fa5a873f&sca_upv=1&source=hp&ei=tsZmZplusIuFsg_Rx6SYBQ&iflsig=AL9hbdgAAAAAZmbUxtJTyTP5BxTMcli1X07PU5kac54o&gs_ssp=eJwFwUEKgCAQBVDaBp2gjZvWOWppHqFbZH7GIChSqeP3XtuNPBIVdvK19ykbP8iP4OIezKKhYTFrL78larsFUtGQmawya88PtoJHJBycShZckYtIV834AeuVGaI&oq=greater+he&gs_lp=&sclient=gws-wiz) |  | 36 – 44 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Reitumetse Guest House | + 266 2232 3176  info@reitumetseguesthouse.co.ls | https://www.reitumetseguesthouse.co.ls/ | 36 USD Inclusive of breakfast |
| Boikhutsong Guest House | +266 [2732 8871](https://www.google.com/search?q=boikhutsong+guest+house+maseru&sca_esv=1e33b27adb72ec82&sca_upv=1&source=hp&ei=AMlmZsa8CLGBhuMPqeWDiAU&iflsig=AL9hbdgAAAAAZmbXEF0KVQK8opFKicu1MBNvUQBWTgVn&gs_ssp=eJwFwUsKgCAQAFDaBl0h3LRWMz90hG7RNKN9KKFR6Pi913YySa035_mM06iaeVCfpoAbmDACTJain9VnHBrUIToLBj3apYd8XHstnJ8kUiUuYs-VSdwr01t_PjIbSg&oq=Boikhutsong+Guest+House&gs_lp=Egdnd3Mtd2l6IhdCb2lraHV0c29uZyBHdWVzdCBIb3VzZSoCCAEyCBAAGIAEGMkDMhEQLhiABBjHARiYBRibBRivATIGEAAYFhgeMgYQABgWGB4yBhAAGBYYHjIGEAAYFhgeMgYQABgWGB4yBhAAGBYYHjIGEAAYFhgeMgYQABgWGB5IoShQxBJYxBJwAXgAkAEAmAGFA6ABhQOqAQMzLTG4AQHIAQD4AQL4AQGYAgGgAo8DqAIAmAMCkgcDMy0xoAfgCQ&sclient=gws-wiz)  reception.boikhutsong@gmail.com |  | 22 – 25 USD Inclusive of breakfast |

Participants are requested to share all travel information, including flight number, arrival and departure dates and times to **Ms Mothepane Kotele at mkotele@lca.org.ls**

CONTACTS

## Hosts: Lesotho Communications Authority (LCA)

Contact Person: Ms Mothepane Kotele

Lesotho Communications Authority

30 Princess Margaret Road, Old Europa

### P.0. Box 15896, Maseru 100. Lesotho.

Telephone: +266 22224300/52221300

Mobile: +266 57756477

Email: [mkotele@lca.org.ls](mailto:mkotele@lca.org.ls)

Website: [www.lca.org.ls](http://www.lca.org.ls)

### Email: [lca@lca.org.ls](mailto:lca@lca.org.ls) and [info@lca.org.ls](mailto:info@lca.org.ls)

## ATU Contacts

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