



### **Press Release 24/05/2023**

Lesotho Council of NGOs will convene its 22<sup>nd</sup> NGO Week and its 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting from May 29<sup>th</sup> to June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2023, at Manthabiseng Convention Centre @ 08:00am-16:30pm daily.

NGO week is a platform where civil society organisations gather with the purpose of sharing and reflecting on the progress and challenges facing development in the context of NGO operations in Lesotho and vouch for possible solutions and way forward. The methodology is such that civil society organisations will take part in seminars, public dialogues, discussions, and debates on issues of national importance with an aim of influencing policy directions. The parallel sessions contribute towards achieving the national agenda as depicted in the NSDPII. The sessions also fit into this year's theme in ensuring that NGOs help the country traverse a trajectory aimed at achieving 2030 goals and beyond. These sessions are seminars in their own right where dialogue is ignited by presentations followed by a discussant in some while in others there are panel discussions followed by an open facilitated dialogue.

The NGO Week embraces the concepts of genuine dialogue and political participation. The social dialogue and opening civic space make up foundation of good governance.

Therefore, in the absence of the evaluation of the previous dialogues, we remain strong to believe that NGO Week is a good platform for closing the gap between the local, national and the region.

The theme for this year is “***Education as a dispensable mode for sustainable development: Time for Action Now***”. There would also be sessions at which various topics will be discussed in this year’s NGO week. The manifestation of this topic is how Lesotho educational system help the Basotho in their diverse backgrounds to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. It is also in these sessions that several stakeholders spanning from Parliamentary Portfolio Committees, Development Partners, Media, Political Parties and NGOs are invited to be part of the deliberations thereof with the aim of leaving no one behind and achieving sustainable development.

The culmination of the week will be LCN elective Annual General Meeting where narrative, financial reports, progress update on last AGM resolutions and ratification of the new members.

For further information, contact Information Office at +266 22317502/62849564/58608566.