



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement by
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Minister Counsellor,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic at the General Debate of the Second
Committee of the 71st Session of the United Nations General
Assembly

New York, 4 October 2016

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the Second Committee. My thanks also go to all members of the Bureau. I assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.
2. My delegation associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Thailand, the Philippines and Bangladesh on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Group of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The adoption of 2030 agenda for sustainable development one year ago is a historic milestone for the international community. Now it is incumbent upon us, the member states, UN agencies, international organizations and other stakeholders to translate our political commitment into concrete actions at national, regional and international level to ensure the effective implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.
4. On its part, in April this year, the Lao PDR adopted the 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020), the Development Strategy 2025 and Vision 2030. The 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan focuses on 3 main thrusts: sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection in order to ensure green growth and sustainable development. Therefore, the sustainable development goals have been mainstreamed into our 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan. In addition, to continue our efforts to clear the unexploded ordnance that continue to be major obstacle to the livelihood of the people and national development, the unfinished business of MDG-9: Reduce the Impact of UXO in Lao PDR has been carried over to the DSGs as a national DSG 18: Lives Safe from the unexploded ordnance (UXOs) which the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR and the Secretary-General of the United Nations officially launched on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane.

5. For the Lao PDR, the implementation of the SDGs is both our domestic and international obligations which, in turn, will contribute to our efforts to realize our national development objectives that is to eradicate poverty, graduate from the least developed country status, among others. For the implementation of the SDGs to be effective, it required huge amount of resources from domestic and external sources. Therefore, enhanced partnership is extremely important to mobilize sufficient resources to support the implementation of the SDGs that have been part of the national development plans of many of the member states of the United Nations, including my own country, the Lao PDR. In this respect, among others, the QCPR should support the special development needs and priorities of the group of countries in special situation in order to support them to effectively implement the SDGs and their respective national development plans that would contribute to uplifting the living standard of people in these countries.
6. Over the past years, international community has provided support and assistance, including the provision of the ODA, to the Lao PDR which has contributed significantly to our efforts to eradicate poverty, graduate from the LDC status. Thus, I wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the international community for such valuable support and assistance and look forward that it will also be forthcoming in the years ahead.
7. Climate change is a global challenge, if it is not addressed adequately will cause more untold suffering to humankind and enormous damage to development of any country that no single country will be able to cope with. Therefore, recognizing the urgency to tackle this issue, the Lao PDR was among the first group of countries that ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. It is my belief that the Paris Agreement will enter into force by the end of this year and will be implemented in an effective manner.

Mr. Chairman,

8. In conclusion, the Lao PDR reiterates its firm commitment to continue working closely with the international community to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to realize the lofty goal of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that **“no one is left behind”**.

Thank you.