

**Statement by Mr. Vassana MOUNSAVENG,
Third Secretary Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations
at
the Sixth Committee of the 71th Session of the United Nations
General Assembly on
“Rule of Law at the National and International Level”
(Agenda item 84), 5-6 October 2016.**

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the Distinguished Representative of Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non- Aligned Movement and Distinguished Representative of the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.
2. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The rule of law is an important foundation for universal respect for the principles of justice in accordance with the UN's charter and it is relevant to all the three pillars of the United Nations which have been set out in the Charter of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development and human rights. Thus, implementation of the rule of law at national and international levels is crucial for the maintenance of peace and security, peaceful settlement of disputes, effective protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Mr. Chairman,

4. In order to meet its international obligations in promoting the rule of law. the Lao PDR has ratified major international treaties under the auspices of the UN and under other international, regional and bilateral frameworks. To date, The Lao PDR is parties to more than 900 international conventions and treaties in various areas, including 450 bilateral agreements with 65 countries and has ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to more than 460 multilateral instruments within the framework of the UN, ASEAN and other international and regional institutions.
5. The treaties ratified by Lao PDR are transposed into national laws and regulations and are implemented in good faith. The adoption of the national Constitution in 1991 and its subsequent amendment was the turning point in the country's governance and legal system which transformed the society from the one based on executive orders to the one based on the rule of law principles. To date, the National Assembly is the organization that supports and promotes strengthening of the government authorities. Over the past years, the National assembly has passed more than 119 laws. In addition to the Constitution and laws enacted by the National Assembly, a large number of sub-laws including Presidential Decrees and Ordinances, Prime Minister's Decrees, ministerial and provincial regulations and other legal acts, have

been adopted in accordance with the Constitution and laws, which formed part of the national framework for developing and promoting rule of law in the Country.

6. In 2009, the Lao Government has adopted a Legal Sector Master Plan 2009-2020 that aims, among things, at enhancing capacity, procedures, and standards of legislative development; improving legal institutions and system; promoting public awareness of legal rights and public participation in the legal system, as well as increasing effective implementation of the international instruments to which the Lao PDR is state party.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In conclusion, Lao PDR firmly believes that the rule of law is a fundamental principle framework for the advancement of peace and security, development, and human rights in individual States and at the international level. The Lao PDR is committed to working with fellow member states, international organizations and other partners to further promote the rule of law at national and international levels.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.