



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

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Statement by

**Ms. Viengxay Thammavong,
First Secretary of the Permanent Mission
of the Lao PDR to the United Nations**

**at the Second Committee of the 70th session
of the United Nations General Assembly
on Agenda Item 24: Eradication of poverty and other development issues.**

New York, 13 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to take this opportunity to extend to you my congratulations on your election as the Chair of the Second Committee. My warm congratulations also go to members of the Bureau. I am confident that under your able leadership, the work of the committee will be guided to a successful conclusion. I assure you of the full support in the discharge of your duty.

My delegation wishes to associate itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of South Africa, Cambodia and Bangladesh on behalf of G77 and China, ASEAN and the group of LDCs respectively. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his reports on this agenda item.

Mr. Chairman,

Poverty, in particular, extreme poverty being faced by most people in the developing countries, especially those in the countries that are the most vulnerable and in special situation needs to be tackled in a holistic manner so that their standard of living can be lifted. This is not a problem that concerns just one country or a group of countries but the whole of the international community. That's why we are heartened that, at the United Nations Summit last month, our leaders adopted the 2030 agenda for sustainable development which succeeds the MDGs where poverty eradication is given a special emphasis.

We have witnessed that significant progress has been made by international community in its efforts to eradicate poverty through the implementation of the MDGs and other global development agendas which has contributed to a significant reduction in the absolute number of people living in extreme poverty by more than half compared to 1990 but we must not lose sight of the fact that extreme poverty is still prevalent across the world. Therefore, sufficient resources to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in the next 15 years are more crucial than ever if the lofty goal of living no one behind is to be attained. To this end, we call on development partners, international organizations, United Nations development agencies, private sector, other stakeholders to support the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development to the provision of financial and technical assistance in the forms of, among others, ODA, soft loans, technology transfer to developing countries, especially the most vulnerable group of countries such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Mr. Chairman,

Eager to graduate from the status of the least developed countries, the Lao Government has given top priority to poverty eradication and rural development in its National Social Economic Development Plans. Poverty Reduction Fund and the National Committee for Rural Development and Poverty Eradication were established since 2002 to oversee utilization of the Fund. In 2004, the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy was adopted to set the framework under which the government plans to develop and implement its initiatives to eradicate poverty and sustain growth setting 2020 as the target to eradicate poverty in the country, particularly, in rural areas. Subsequently, the Strategy and the MDGs were

incorporated into the five-year socio-economic development plans to make it more unified and streamlined and to ensure the coherence and integrity in terms of planning and implementing the plans as well as to align assistance from development partners into one master plan to avoid duplications and achieve aid effectiveness. As a result, the rate of poverty declined significantly from around 28% in 2002 to 20% in 2010 and further dropped to around 17% in 2014.

To ensure the continuity of our efforts to implement the rural development and poverty eradication strategy, the Government is pursuing the path of sustainable development through "three-level development" initiative known as "*Sam Sang*" that comprises the provincial, district and village level where the province is responsible for the strategic planning, the district for comprehensive development, and the village for development of its own area while enhancing its cooperation with development partners.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, the Lao Government is strongly committed to eradicate poverty to create prerequisites for lifting the country from the LDC status. Currently, my country is hosting the 9th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication in Vientiane from 13-17 October. To this end, my country will actively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development in order to realize the objectives that our leaders adopted last month through the mainstreaming of the activities of the 2030 agenda that are in line with our development initiatives and strategies into our national development plans. We, therefore, call our development partners, international organizations, UN agencies, private sector and other stakeholders to support the implementation of our national development plans. Such support will in one way or another contribute to the reduction or even the eradication of poverty in our country, in the region and in the world as a whole.

I thank you.