



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

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Statement by
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Permanent Representative
of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

at the first regular session 2016 of the Executive Board
of UNDP, UNFPA and UNOPS
(UNFPA: Country Programmes and Related Matters)
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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. president,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I would like to thank Dr. Osotimehin, Executive Director of the UNFPA for his statement on the past years' achievements and laying out plan for the work of the UNFPA in the coming year.

Mr. president,

UNFPA has actively engaged in strengthening maternal and reproductive health in many developing countries, including my country. This assistance includes family planning information, training and support for midwives and other skilled health workers; and providing life-saving supplies, equipment and medicines to under-resourced health systems. It is believed that the MDGs and the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, especially the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, could not be achieved if the population development and reproductive health are not squarely addressed. In this regards, the unfinished business of MDGs, particularly MDG 4 and 5 on reducing child mortality and improving maternal health is needed to be addressed by the support and cooperation from the international community in order to help developing countries, particularly LDCs to achieve goals under SDGs relevant to health and development.

Mr. president,

In the Lao PDR, the UNFPA's Country Programme Document has been developed through a participatory process and close consultation with the government and other national and international stakeholders. It is driven by the country's needs and priorities as identified in the 7th and 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plans. In this connection, the UNFPA Fifth Country Programme for the Lao PDR for the period 2012-2015 has provided valuable support for strengthening maternal health and Reproductive Health services through the health system strengthening approach and introducing new elements of Reproductive health service in Lao PDR.

In this regard, my delegation would like to express our sincere thank to UNFPA for its valuable supports both of financial and technical expertise to the

government of Lao PDR, especially to work closely with the Lao Statistics Bureau, and Ministry of Planning and Investment on the 4th population and housing census which has been completed last year. It will serve significantly for the policy formulation, monitoring, evaluation and decision making for national socio-economic development in the coming years.

Mr. president,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate our strong commitment in working with UNFPA in the fulfillment of its mandate, and strongly calls for donors to help address the issue of core resource constraint of UNFPA.

I Thank you.