



# *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

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Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

at the Third Committee of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly

Agenda item 27: Social Development

New York, 2 October 2017

(Please check against delivery)

**Madame Chairperson,**

1. I wish to begin by congratulating you and other members for heading the work of the Third Committee for the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that with your wealth of experience you will successfully guide the work of the Committee. I assure you of our full cooperation in the discharge of your duty.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Ecuador on behalf of the G-77 and China.

**Madame Chairperson,**

3. Given its importance to the overall development of all nations, social development is now placed at the heart of a transformative global development agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which adopted by leaders of all member states of the United Nations with the promise to leave no one behind. Therefore, it is incumbent upon all of us to find ways and means to effectively implement the SDGs and other global development initiatives to address the challenges to social development such as eradication of poverty, education, health, inequality.

**Madame Chairperson,**

4. Social development is one of the 3 main pillars that the Lao Government is pursuing, the other two being the economic development and the environment protection. In the social development, top priority is given to human resource development as it is key to the development of a nation. Despite being a least developed country, with its domestic resources and support and assistance from the international community, the Lao PDR has invested significantly in the social development in parallel with the economic development and environmental protection through the implementation of the 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020 where many of the SDGs have been mainstreamed. This has led to a significant reduction of poverty, improved healthcare, better education, more employment opportunities and better social security which have to a great extent contributed to building a decent life for all. Furthermore, as youth is seen as the backbone of the country, the Lao Government has invested resources to support youth development through the provision of quality education, vocational training, job opportunity and the launch of the campaign for youth

to stay away from drugs. The Lao Government has also promoted gender equality, be it in education, job opportunity, career development and decision making at every level of public and private sectors.

**Madame Chairperson,**

5. As the state party to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Lao PDR is committed to supporting people with disabilities and fulfilling its obligations under such Convention. Provisions of this Convention have been advocated and implemented in good faith at the central and local levels so that the rights of persons with disabilities are respected. The Government also puts in place measures to eliminate social discrimination against persons with disabilities. In addition, the Lao People Disabilities Association is actively promoting and enhancing the rights of people with disabilities to ensure that their rights are respected.

**Madame Chairperson,**

6. The culture of respect and care for the elderly by the siblings in my country has been practiced since the time immemorial and continues today despite some changes in the living and working patterns and conditions of the family. Most of the Lao people consider themselves lucky if there is the elderly in the family as the elderly is the source of inspiration, love and warmth for other members of the family or even in the whole village. This is the way the Lao people are treating the elderly people.

**Madame Chairperson,**

7. To conclude, my Government acknowledges that much remains to be done and is committed to improving social development so that all will enjoy a decent life.

I thank you, Madame Chairperson,