



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

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First Secretary

Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the UN

at the Third Committee of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda item 65: Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Children

New York, 13 October 2016.

(Please check against delivery)

Madame Chairperson,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN. However, I wish to add few remarks in my national capacity.

Madame Chairperson,

2. The 26th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) which will be celebrated at the end of this year will provide an important opportunity for the international community to further enhance cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child.

3. The Lao Government consistency holds the view that children are the future of our country. In this respect, my Government attaches great importance to the child development, be it in education, health and the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. Over the past years, we have made remarkable progress in strengthening the legal and policy framework to protect women and children from all forms of violence, including domestic violence as well as to strengthen legal framework for child justice. This includes, among others, the passing of the Law on Juvenile Criminal Procedure and the Law on Prevention and Combating Violence against Women and Children in 2013 and 2014 respectively. In addition, the new National Plan of Action to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against Children for the period of 2014-2020 to address all forms of violence in all settings is being implemented.

4. The Lao Government has paid special attention to the health and education of the children by increasing the ratio of the national budget allocation to these sectors as a means to improve service delivery. Nutrition strategy to promote healthy growth is being implemented to ensure sufficient nutrition intakes for children. Vaccination campaigns have been also carried out nationwide to prevent and eradicate preventable deceases. Free school meals for lunch have been launched in some rural and remote areas as pilot projects which produced satisfactory results in terms of promoting school attendance and preventing school drop-outs which also contribute, to a great extent, to improving the nutrition intakes for the children. As a result, these projects will be expanded to other areas of the country.

5. As a state party, the Lao PDR has committed to the implementation of its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. We have made concerted efforts to implement the CRC recommendations on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. We are currently preparing the third national report on the implementation of CRC.

6. At the regional level, the Lao PDR is actively participating in the regional cooperation framework, particularly, in the work of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the

Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and attaches importance to the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2013.

Madame Chairperson,

7. We have made important progress in the promotion and protection of the rights of the child but challenges remain, especially in rural and remote areas where poverty is still prevalent and more health services are needed. Therefore, the Lao Government will do its utmost to overcome such challenges so that the rights of the child in our country is promoted and protected. We will not be complacent with our success but will take our weaknesses and shortcomings seriously to build bright future for our children. The above – mentioned progress was possible because of the combination of our efforts and the valuable support and assistance from the international community, Hence, I wish to take this opportunity to express our profound thanks and appreciation to development partners, United Nations development agencies, international organizations, and other stakeholders for such valuable assistance and support and look forward to their further support and assistance so that all our children can be blessed with a bright future.

Thank you.