



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement

by

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Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to
the United Nations

at the General Debate of the Second Committee of the 73rd Session of
the United Nations General Assembly

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, I wish to congratulate you on your election as the chair of the Second Committee.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of Egypt, the Philippines, Malawi and Paraguay on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, ASEAN, LDCs and LLDCs respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Following a long period of stagnation as a result of a series of broad-based economic crises over the past decade, the world economy has finally achieved growth of 3.0 percent in 2017, the highest growth rate since 2011. The trend of global economic growth is expected to maintain a steady pace for this year and next year. Despite that positive calculation, recent global economic gains remain unequally allocated across countries and regions, especially among the most vulnerable groups of countries, namely LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs, which require higher level of investment to meet their specific needs and challenges in their development efforts as well as to support the implementation of SDGs. My delegation, therefore, believes that special attention should be given to the development needs of these particular groups of countries so that they will not be left behind.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Poverty eradication has been the overarching goal of the 2030 Agenda and an indispensable requirement for developing countries to achieve the SDGs. As such, the Lao PDR has mainstreamed the global development agendas into its current 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan, focusing on achieving the balance among the three pillars of sustainable development. Furthermore, various key policies and measures have been conducted nationwide, inter alia, the strengthening of public financial management and revenue collection aim at enhancing domestic resource mobilization to support the implementation of SDGs. In the meantime, given its specific challenges, the Lao PDR has adopted the national SDG 18 entitled "Lives Safe from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)" to address the problem caused by UXO.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Making the United Nations fit for purpose is a matter of necessity so that it can respond effectively to the challenges we face today. We are pleased with the initiative by the UN Secretary-General on reforming and repositioning of the UN with the aim to improve UN capability to meet the needs in the current environment. In this context, we reiterate our view that development must remain at the core, be an integral part and a top priority for the United Nations and member states while promoting international peace, security and human rights.
6. While emphasizing the importance of enhancing capacity of the UN system to deliver its mandate, we are concerned about the continuing decline of the contribution to the core funding to the UN agencies. If this trend continues, it will affect the performance of the UN development agencies and development programs on the ground. Therefore, my delegation thanks and appreciates countries that have already provided significant amount of official development assistance to developing countries and call on other countries to fulfil their ODA commitment of at least 0.7% of their GNI.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Let me conclude by reaffirming our strong commitment to effectively implement the IPoA, VPoA and SDGs, among others. We will continue to work closely with development partners, UN agencies and other stakeholders to effectively implement the above-mentioned global development agendas.
8. I thank you, Mr Chairman,