



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

Mr. Viengkeo Khaopaseuth,

First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
to the United Nations at the Third Committee of the 74th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly

Agenda item 26: Advancement of Women

(New York, 04 October 2019)

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. First of all, my delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the State of Palestine and Thailand on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and ASEAN, respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The Lao Government recognizes important roles played by women in all areas of the national development. Therefore, the Government has the policy to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to protect the women and girls in order to ensure that they can perform their roles and functions effectively in the socio-economic and political life.
3. In this connection, policies and strategies have been put in place, advancement of women-related laws were enacted to promote and protect the rights and interest of women and girls.
4. The National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children is an important body that plays a key role in the promotion of gender equality and the elimination of discrimination against women. The rights of women, children and persons with disabilities were promoted and protected through the implementation of relevant provisions of the Constitution, laws, national strategies and action plans. These include, among others, the Law on the Development and Protection of Women, Law on Prevention and Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children, Law on Anti-Trafficking in Persons, the amended Law on Labour, and Law on Civil Servants.
5. In the legislative branch, the number of women parliamentarians has increased to 27.5% in the current 8th Legislature of the Lao National Assembly compared to the previous legislature of 25%. In the provincial councils, the female members account for 31.9%. Furthermore, women also make up more than half the owners of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and around 31% of formal enterprises with more than five employees are owned by female in the Lao PDR.
6. The Lao Government is strongly committed to further promote gender equality and the rights of women. Therefore, the draft law on Gender Equality was submitted to the National Assembly early this year. It is expected to be approved and enacted by the end of this year.

Mr. Chairman,

7. At the regional level, the Lao PDR is actively participating in the ASEAN Committee on Women (ACW) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC).
8. In 2018, the Lao PDR presented the combined Eighth and Ninth Periodic report on implementation of the CEDAW in which all previous recommendations of the Committee have been translated into the Lao language and disseminated to government officials, stakeholders and the general public. Many of them have been integrated into the five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plans 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.
9. On the occasion of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2020, the Lao Government looks forward to working closely with international and regional partners, UN agencies and programmes and ASEAN, to review its implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

10. In conclusion, I wish to reiterate the strong commitment of the Lao Government to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality at all levels. I wish also to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to the development partners for their support and assistance that have made important contribution to our efforts to promote the advancement of women and look forward to continue working with them in the years ahead.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.