



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

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Statement by

Mr. Khamphinh PHILAKONE
Second Secretary

at the Second Committee of the 70th session
of the United Nations General Assembly
on Agenda Item 23 (b): Group of countries in special situations: Follow-up to the
Second United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries.
New York, 29 October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements made earlier by the distinguished representatives of South Africa, Zambia and Bangladesh on behalf of G-77 and China, LLDCs and LDCs respectively.

My delegation would like to thank the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the Vienna Programme of Action (VPoA) for Landlocked Developing Countries for the decade 2014-2024.

Mr. Chairman,

The adoption of VPoA at the second UN Conference in Austria last year and other programmes of action such as the Istanbul Programme of Action and the SAMAO Path Way has again demonstrated the commitment of the international community to support and assist the groups of countries in special situations address their special needs and challenges. The Lao Government believes that the effective implementation of the above mentioned programmes of action is the most important. To this end, the Lao Government has mainstreamed the priorities under the VPoA into our country's vision of transforming itself from the disadvantageous landlockedness into a landlinked one by promoting the development of connectivity with the

immediate neighboring countries in the Greater Mekong sub-region and the wider region is being pursued. Key transport networks linked between national roads and with neighboring countries within the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) are being implemented under various sub-regional and regional cooperation frameworks through increased investment in infrastructure development, especially in the construction of roads and railways and bridges to link the country with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks through the implementation of various bilateral and multilateral agreements. This includes, among others, the GMS road networks to address the transport bottleneck in our country that lies in the North-South Economic Corridor (NSEC), the East-West Economic Corridor (EWEC), the Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS), the Laos-Viet Nam-Cambodia Development Triangle (CLMV) to facilitate the movement of goods and people in the region.

Apart from the development of physical connectivity, the Lao Government is exploring ways and means to reduce the transaction and the transportation costs to enhance the country's competitiveness by implementing a pilot project on a single window checkpoint between the Lao PDR and Viet Nam early this year which I am confident that this kind of cooperation will be further expanded in the future.

At the broader regional level, the Lao PDR is actively taking part in the process of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) building, which will commence on 31 December 2015. AEC will form a solid ground for regional cooperation and integration which will make it as one of more economically competitive regions in the world in the coming decades.

Mr. Chairman,

I recognize that the achievements in the process of our national development would have not been possible without the support and assistance from international community. Therefore, I wish to express my sincere thanks to the international community for such support and assistance that have significantly contributed to the achievements in our efforts to eradicate poverty and create the necessary prerequisites to graduate our country from the status of underdevelopment around 2020. I do hope that our development partners would continue to support our endeavors.

I thank you.