



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

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Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

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Assembly

Agenda item 25: Social Development

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to extend my sincere congratulation to you on your election as the chair of the Third Committee of the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of the full cooperation of the Lao delegation in the discharge of your duty.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the State of Palestine and Malaysia on behalf of the Group of 77 and China and ASEAN respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Many countries around the world are facing challenges, especially more frequent and severe impact of climate change. This has affected the livelihood of the people and the eroded socio-economic development gains.
4. In the past few months, my country experienced unexpected heavy rainfalls due to the tropical storm where most of the provinces were flooded, causing an enormous damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihood of the people. This requires a huge amount of resources to rebuild the livelihood of the people in affected areas.

Mr. Chairman,

5. The Lao Government attaches great importance to the social development. In social development, the priority is given to developing and delivering basic social services to the people, inter alia, in education, healthcare, income generation in order to improve the livelihood of the people. However, much more needs to be done to mobilise resources to meet the development needs as gap persists, especially between urban and remote rural areas. To this end, we have mobilized resources for the implementation of the 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020, the Strategy 2025 and the Vision 2030 aimed at graduating from the LDC status and becoming a high-middle income country by 2030.
6. In the health sector, the Lao PDR is striving to achieve UHC by 2025 and SDGs by 2030 by reforming the health system in which significant amount of resources have been invested to improve access to high quality and equitable health care services. In addition, the financial barriers have been removed to provide social health protection for all Lao citizen and free services for pregnant women and

children below the age of five and the poor. Furthermore, law on health coverage was also enacted to ensure that all Lao people can access to health care services.

7. Notwithstanding that the health sector in my country is still facing challenges such as a potential decline in external support and assistance for the maternal and child health, HIV, TB, malaria, immunization, and family planning.

Mr. Chairman,

8. On education, the Education Sector Development Plan 2016-2020 is being implemented. The overall goal is for the education sector to be appropriately structured and resourced to create opportunity for all Lao citizens to have equitable access to quality education and sports and to benefit from socio-economic development. As a result, in 2016, net enrollment and a gender parity rate were 98.8% and 0.98 for primary education. In spite of this, challenges remain. Therefore, we focus on, among others, achieving compulsory primary education and expanding compulsory education to include lower secondary education; eradicating illiteracy by supporting relevant lifelong learning; expanding and strengthening secondary education, technical and vocational education and training, and higher education to respond to future demands of the labor market and improve economic outputs; and applying ICT as the tools for improving education administration and management and education quality.
9. On the Persons with Disabilities, the law on Persons with Disabilities was promulgated in May this year. This is to guarantee that the rights and non-discrimination of Persons with Disabilities are protected.

Mr. Chairman,

10. I wish to end my statement by saying that in addition to the national ownership and leadership in the national development, the enhanced global partnership to support developing countries, especially LDCs is of a paramount importance to help attain their national development objectives so that they also can effectively contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.