



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

H.E. Choummaly SAYASONE,

President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

at the UN Summit for the adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda

New York, 26 September 2015

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Co-chair,

I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your election as Co-chairs of the UN Summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda. I would also like to commend H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the United Nations for his leadership of this august organization in providing support for effective development cooperation over the past decade.

Mr. Co-chair,

15 years ago, the world leaders adopted the Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals, aimed at reducing poverty in the world; achieving universal access to primary education; promoting greater gender equality; improving child and maternal health; ensuring environmental sustainability; and enhancing global partnership for development. These are the main goals that we have been striving for by the end of this year. It is noted that over the past decade and a half, we have been able to make progress in many areas. Global poverty has declined significantly, women and men have become more equal, the number of out-of-school children has dropped by almost half, child and maternal mortality rate has improved substantially.

Nevertheless, compared with the targets set by the world leaders, only some of those targets were attained. To date, more than 800 million are still living in extreme poverty, an estimated 57 million children are out of school while the gap between the rich and the poor is also widening. The developing countries with potentials to achieve the MDGs have been unfortunately affected by the global economic and financial crisis, political unrests have occurred in many places as well as natural disasters have continued to pose constant threats to many countries, thus hindering the progress in the implementation of set-goals.

Mr. Co-chair,

As for the Lao PDR, over the years, great efforts have been made in order to integrate the MDGs into our National Socio-Economic Development Plans. Especially, throughout the past 5 years, the Lao PDR has been implementing its 7th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2011-2015, which is entering the final stage. Under this plan, special attention has been given to reducing poverty among the people. As a result, poverty rate has declined from 48% recorded in 1990 to 23% in 2012/2013. In 2015, it is estimated that poverty rate will be further declined. At the same time, the Lao PDR has also set a goal to broaden its economic cooperation, strengthen capacity of private sector aiming at maintaining sustained and stable economic growth at 8% per annum. In social sector, education has improved significantly with the net

primary school enrolment ratio of 98,5% in 2014, compared to 84% recorded in 2005. Importantly, this year in particular, the Lao PDR has recently marked the completion of national primary education equivalency programme. Likewise, health services have also been improved, number of hospitals and dispensaries has increased both in quantity and quality. In addition, the Lao Government has also introduced a policy on free care service delivery provided from central to local levels.

Mr. Co-chair,

The post-2015 development agenda that we adopted yesterday is of great importance for the developing countries, especially the least developed countries and countries in special situations. The Lao PDR agrees with and fully supports 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets. At the country level, we will mainstream the said goals and targets into our Vision 2030, Ten-year socio-economic Development Strategy (2016-2025) and the 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020). The 8th NSEDP is considered an ambitious plan aiming at ensuring political stability, peace and social order, fundamentally reducing poverty and ultimately graduating the country from the LDC status in 2020.

Mr. Co-chair,

To attain SDGs, sufficient resources and implementation mechanism are of great significance. I therefore propose that the international community identify clear and concrete measures, mechanism and funding support for the effective implementation of our goals.

In conclusion, I would like to express our profound thanks and deep gratitude to the international community, friendly countries and international organizations for the continued support and cooperation extended to the Lao PDR throughout the years, and I do hope that such valuable support will continue in the future.

I wish our Summit a great success.

Thank you.