



# Lao People's Democratic Republic

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Statement by

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Adviser

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At the Second Committee of the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of

The United Nations General Assembly

On Agenda Item 24:

*“Agriculture Development, Food Security and Nutrition”*

New York, October 11, 2019

(Please Check Against Delivery)

**Mr. Chairman,**

My delegation aligns itself with statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the State of Palestine, Myanmar, and Malawi on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, ASEAN and LDCs, respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Ending poverty and hunger are the common aspiration of the developing countries, in particular, the group of countries in special situation. The latest report of the Secretary-General revealed that 821 million people, approximately one in nine people in the world were undernourished in 2018. The most recent evidence also indicated clearly that the world is not on track in its global effort to achieve Zero-Hunger by 2030 due to many root causes such as prolong conflict and weak policy response, among others. Similarly, climate change and natural disasters are also the major causes of reversing the hard-earned development gains in terms of poverty eradication and ending hunger worldwide.

Therefore, the Lao Government has attached great importance to the agricultural development. We have been implementing the Agriculture Development Strategy 2025 and 2030 Vision, which aims at **“ensuring food security; producing potentially comparative and competitive agricultural commodities; developing clean, safe and sustainable agriculture; and shifting gradually to the modernization of a resilient and productive agricultural economy linking with rural development and contributing to the overall national economic base”**. Given great potential in clean, safe and sustainable agriculture, the Lao Government has pursued a policy on clean agriculture production as a main priority by applying Good Agriculture Practice (GAP) and Organic Agriculture production approaches (OA).

**Mr. Chairman,**

Despite impressive gains in economic growth over the past decade, the Lao PDR has one of the highest rates of chronic malnutrition in Southeast Asia. The Lao Government has adopted and implemented the National Nutrition Strategy 2025 and its Plan of

Action 2016-2020 is aimed at achieving SDG 2 – “End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture” and also contribute towards achieving the other SDGs and the national development goals.

The Strategy focuses on addressing the immediate, and root causes while applying a multi-sectoral convergent approach with common focus points, common goals, and common timeframes. It also seeks to raise support from our development partners and other relevant stakeholders. To this end, the National Nutrition Committee (NNC), created in July 2013, has the mandate to provide the necessary overall leadership and guidance for the coordination of the implementation of such Strategy and Plan of Action for the relevant sectors at all levels.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In addition, Lao PDR is still being contaminated by UXOs of which about one third of the land, including fertile lands. This has been one of major obstacles hampering our efforts to expand and allocate lands for agricultural production. Moreover, much more need to be done in terms of disaster risk management as our country is still facing natural disasters. This year our country was affected by the unexpected heavy rainfalls as a result of a tropical storm, causing widespread flooding and huge damage to infrastructure, agriculture and livelihood of the people.

In this regard, we sincerely thank development partners, UN agencies and other stakeholder for their continued support to help our respond to the needs of the affected communities and people to recover quickly from the recent disasters.

**Mr. Chairman,**

In conclusion, I wish to reiterate that Lao PDR is strongly committed to developing the agricultural sector as it continues to contribute to our efforts to eradicate poverty as it is called for in the 2030 Agenda in order to promote sustainable agricultural development to ensure food security and better nutrition for our people.

**I thank you.**