

Statement by  
H.E. Thongloun Sisoulith,  
Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR  
at the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's  
Empowerment - A Commitment to Action  
New York, 27 September 2015

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Mr. Co-chair,  
Excellencies,

I have the honor to participate in this Global Leaders' Meeting. Taking this opportunity, I would like to commend the Government of the PR China and UN Women, especially President Xi Jinping and Secretary General Ban-ki Moon, for the initiative to co-host this Meeting on such important topic.

To implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, MDGs and others, the Lao Government has established the national institutional mechanism to promote gender equality and women advancement, namely the Lao Women's Union, the Women Parliamentarian Caucus, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women and the National Commission for Mother and Child. As a result, constant progress has been made as follows.

- Gender equality has been enhanced, especially women and girls have been given special attention, thus narrowing the gender gap, achieving the net primary school enrolment ratio of 98,5% in 2014 and raising the gender parity index at all levels of education.

- Health of women has improved steadily, maternal mortality has declined.
- The government has endorsed a National Action Plan on Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children. The National Assembly has endorsed the Law on Prevention of Violence Against Women and Violence Against Children, which was promulgated in January 2015.
- Women role and status in all fields have been widely strengthened, for instance, women members of the current legislation of the National Assembly account for 25% and the current President of the National Assembly is also a woman, marking important chapter in our history.
- Most women have permanent jobs and are more economically better off.

Mr. Co-chair,

I would like to reiterate the commitment of the Lao PDR to continue working closely with the international community to promote and advance the role and status of women. The Lao Government will continue to implement its gender equality policy through Vision 2030, Ten-year socio-economic Development Strategy and Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plans.

Thank you.