



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

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Statement by

Maythong Thammavongsa, Minister Counsellor,

Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

at

the Third Committee of the 72nd Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Agenda item 28: advancement of women

New York, 6 October 2017.

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Mr. Chairman,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Ecuador on behalf of G77 and China and Thailand on behalf of ASEAN. I wish to add few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

The empowerment of women and gender equality is one of the top priorities of the social development that the Lao Government is pursuing. Our Constitution and laws provide a legal guarantee of the equality between men and women in politics, economy, culture and society, as well as in the family. To this end, one of the amendments of the Constitution in 2003 was to increase the responsibility to promote advancement of women so that they are on equal footing with men in terms of legal rights, economic and social opportunities.

To achieve the goal of gender equality, as contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and other international commitment, the Lao Government has mainstreamed the work of empowerment and advancement of women and gender equality into its Five-Year National Socio-economic Development Plans, set up the National Commission for the Advancement of Women, Mothers and Children, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister. Furthermore, specific strategies and vision have been adopted and relevant law has been amended to ensure women empowerment and gender equality are materialized.

In the meantime, the commitment of the Government to gender equality is also reflected in a number of policy documents, including those on Population, Health and Human Resources. The Lao Government has approved the Development Plan for the Lao Women that includes goals and programs to promote Lao Women's legal awareness, improve their education, skills, health, nutrition, and income-generation opportunities.

As we attach great importance to the empowerment of women, the State Budget Law was amended in 2016 to accommodate the budgetary allocation to support the work of empowerment of women in all public agencies and sectors.

This is to demonstrate our commitment from the practical point of view that policy alone is not enough and actions need adequate means of implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

To ensure continued progress on the work of empowerment of women, the National Commission has organized annual meeting and this year it held its first annual meeting in July to discuss the improvement of the organizational structure; the translation into reality of vision 2030; the implementation of the national strategies on gender equality, mother and child affairs 2016-2025; the 8th five-year national action plan on gender equality and the action plan on the prevention and elimination of violence against women and children 2014-2020.

Mr. Chairman person,

The Lao PDR remains committed to the implementation of the women empowerment and gender equality related international conventions, especially CEDAW. In July this year, the Lao PDR presented the combined Eighth and Ninth Periodic Report on the implementation of the CEDAW.

To conclude, my delegation reiterates that the Lao PDR is committed to the promotion and protection of women's rights. Our vision 2030 is designed to ensure women rights and the development of gender equality and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all areas, and ensure women fully participate in politic, economic and socio-culture and family life.

I thank you.