



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

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At the Third Committee of the 73rd Session of the United Nations

General Assembly

Agenda item 28: Social Development

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Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, please allow me to congratulate you on your election as chair of the Third Committee of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I assure you of the full cooperation and support of the Lao delegation in the discharge of your duty.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Egypt and Malaysia on behalf of the Group 77 and China and ASEAN respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The significance of social development is recognized in all nations. The SDGs that promised to leave no one behind call on governments to take concrete actions to effectively address the challenges to social development focusing on, among others, poverty eradication to enable the citizen to gain access to quality education and health services.

Mr. Chairman,

4. In the Lao PDR, social development is one of three pillars of the national development plan, the other two being economic development and protection of environment. The social development gives emphasis on human resource development, eradication of poverty, access to education and health care. To achieve such objectives, the Government has embedded the social sector in the Five-Year National Socio Economic Development Plan and has heavily invested significant amount of resources to support its implementation.
5. To protect and promote the right of persons with disabilities, the Lao PDR became a state party to the Convention on the Right of the Persons with Disabilities in 2008. The Action Plan on the National Strategy for People with Disability is being implemented to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, gather data on disability, develop and formulate policies on disability, raise awareness about disability and encourage the public to help and respect persons with disabilities. This year, the Government has submitted the bill on Persons with Disabilities to the National Assembly for consideration at the upcoming session. This legal

instrument will become the main mechanism and the guarantee of the right of persons with disability in all aspects when enacted.

6. Education is also a top priority of the Lao PDR. The Education Sector Development Plan was adopted and its implementation will ensure more access to better quality education. As result, in recent years, universal coverage in primary enrolment and gender parity at primary level has been improved.

Mr. Chairman

7. In the Lao culture and tradition, the aged is highly respected and taken cared by their siblings and relatives since the ancient time. The aged is the source of love, warmth and inspiration for family and people in the society. In addition, the Lao government provides social security and public service to the elderly.

Mr. Chairman

8. In conclusion, while positive momentum had been gained on social development, challenges remains. Therefore, we will continue to make efforts towards building a better life for all in the Lao society.
9. I thank you, Mr. Chairman.