



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

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**Statement by Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa**

**Minister Counselor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the UN**

**at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations General  
Assembly**

**Agenda item 107: International Drug Control**

**New York, 08 October 2015.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

At the outset, the delegation of the Lao PDR wishes to thank the Secretary General for his report on this issue.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representatives of the Republic of the South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, and Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Narcotic drugs pose major threats to the society and hinder socio-economic development of many countries. No country has immune from the threat of narcotic drugs in this era of a globalised world of advancement of transportation and communication. This illegal but lucrative business has lured many people to the ring of illicit drugs trafficking. Therefore, concerted efforts are needed at the local, national, regional and international levels to prevent and suppress the illicit drugs trafficking.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Lao Government is well aware of the major threat arising from the illicit drugs. It has, therefore, made utmost efforts to fight the illicit drugs trafficking at the national, regional and international levels. How seriously we are addressing this issue has been seen from the most harsh punishment on drugs traffickers. The Lao National Commission for Drug Control and Supervision has been created as an institution to coordinate, supervise and monitor the efforts to address the drug problem. In addition, important policies and measures were adopted, in particular, the National Drug Control Master Plan for 2009-2013 and was extended to 2015. The Master Plan serves as the policy framework for drug control and prevention in the country and also helps integrate drug control objectives into relevant national and international agencies through the nine

components of the Master Plan, namely, trend analysis and risk assessment; alternative development and poverty reduction; drug demand reduction and HIV/AIDS prevention; civic awareness and community mobilization; law enforcement; criminal justice and the rule of law; chemical precursor control and forensics capacity; international and national cooperation and institutional capacity-building. Furthermore, in 2014, the National Assembly adopted the Law on Drugs and amended Article 146 on Drugs under Criminal Law to strengthen the legal instruments against any drug related crimes.

At the regional and international levels, drugs prevention are considered as a primary priority task for us. The Government has paid seriously attention to strengthening regional and international cooperation to fight against illicit drugs. Border Liaison Offices (BLOs) have been set up at the border check-points along with neighboring countries to ensure safe international borders against illicit drug trafficking and smuggling. The Lao PDR has implemented existing bilateral and multilateral agreements on drug control cooperation, exchange of information and intelligence and against drug trafficking with ASEAN Member Countries and friendly countries.

To realize the objective of the ASEAN's vision of a drug-free community, the Lao PDR has focused on the following strategies:

1. Strengthening the overall oversight and advocacy capacity of authorities concerned;
2. Enhancing effective law enforcement at all levels;
3. Strengthening a nationwide monitoring and data collection system on drugs, HIV and AIDS, as well as crime-related trends;
4. Strengthening trend analysis and risk assessment;
5. Improving sustainable livelihoods options by providing access to training, credit and markets;
6. Raising awareness among risk and vulnerable groups;
7. Further providing and improving treatment, rehabilitation centers and reintegration schemes to respond on the needs of drug addicts;
8. Placing strong emphasis on institutional capacity building;
9. Ensuring that policies, strategies and programmes are brought down to the grassroots through projects and activities;
10. Further developing a strong cooperation and network at ASEAN level.

**Mr. Chairman,**

Thanks to the implementation of relevant laws and policies as well as the efforts of our law enforcement agencies, on the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking held this year, the Lao authorities concerned announced that a large quantity of heroin, raw opium, dried cannabis, ICE, morphine and ATS tablets have been seized and burned and over 2,140 drug traffickers have been arrested and brought them to justice.

With regard to the treatment of drug addicts, the establishment of the Condition and Rehabilitation and Training Center in 1996 provides a suitable basic setting for drug detoxification and rehabilitation and to implement vocational training activities. Since its establishment, some 25,984 drug-addicted patients were treated at the Center.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude, my delegation wishes to thank the friendly countries and international organizations that provided valuable assistance to fight the illicit drugs in our country and hopes that the assistance will be continued. We reaffirm that we will continue our utmost efforts to fight the scourge of illicit narcotic drugs and will work closely with the international community to overcome this issue.

Thank you.