



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

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Statement by

Mr. Sylaphet Thinkeomeuangneua, Third Secretary,

Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

at

the Third Committee of the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Agenda item 27: advancement of women

New York, 10 October 2016.

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation highly appreciates the Report of the Secretary General under this agenda item which has provided an overview and analysis of the progress made and challenges remained to be tackled with regard to the work of the advancement of women.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by Thailand on behalf of G77 and China and Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN, and I would like to make few additional remarks in my national capacity.

Madame Chairperson,

The empowerment of Women and gender equality is one of the top priorities of the Lao Government. The Constitution of the Lao PDR is a legal guarantee of the equality between men and women in politics, economy, culture and society, as well as in the family. The amendment of the Constitution in 2003 was to ensure in this respect, by focusing on increasing responsibility in protecting women's interests and women's advancement. In order to apply these Constitutional guarantees in people's life, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR adopted the Law on the Development and Protection of Women in late 2004. Furthermore, the Law on Lao Women's Union and the Law on Prevention and Suppression of Violence against Women and Child were also promulgated and implemented.

In addition, in order to implement what is stipulated in the Constitution, laws and policies on gender equality; the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women (LaoNCAW) was established in 2003 by Prime Minister's Decree Number 37. It has the task to assist the Government in formulating national policy guidance and strategy aimed at promoting women's advancement at all aspect, and to be the focal point for, and to coordinate closely with, local authorities and international organizations concerned in the implementation of the Government's policy on promoting gender equality as well as on eliminating all forms of discrimination against women.

In this respect, the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women 2006-2010 was adopted and subsequently the National Strategy for 2011-2015 was also adopted. In addition, LaoNCAW coordinates with local authorities and international organizations to mobilize financial support and technical assistance, including organizing workshops and seminars aimed at promoting Gender Rights, and elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women.

The Lao Women's Union is another organization that also works exclusively on the promotion and protection of women equality It has 5-year development plans which aims to promote gender equality, protect women's rights and ensure benefit for women that links to the implementation of SDGs, in particular, SDG5.

Besides, the Government's commitment 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 Lao Women that includes goals and programs to promote Lao Women's legal awareness; to improve their education, skill levels, health, nutrition, and income-generating opportunities.

The Government of the Lao PDR attaches great importance to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and the Platform for Action, CEDAW and SDGs. As a result, gender parity has steadily improved, be in the education, representation in the National Assembly and leadership.

Madam Chairperson,

At the decision making level, there are significant increase of participation of female leaders such as: there are 6 women ministers and equivalent, 15 female Vice-ministers and equivalent, 4 female Vice-Provincial governors, and a number of female heads of district and village chiefs. Regionally, Lao PDR is among the countries with highest proportion of women in national parliament of which 25% of our parliamentarians are female.

Madame Chairperson,

Lao PDR remains fully committed to international convention especially CEDAW. We make concerted efforts to implement the CEDAW recommendations to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women. We are currently preparing the 8th and 9th National Report on the implementation of CEDAW.

Madame Chairperson,

To conclude, progresses on the advancement of women have been made, but much remains to be done. My delegation reaffirms that the Government of the Lao PDR is committed to continuing the promotion and protection of women's rights. In this regard, we wish to thank all development partners for their valuable support to the work of advancement of women in my country and hope that the assistance will be continued.

Thank you Madame Chairperson.