



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

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**Statement by Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
to the UN at the Third Committee of the 70th Session of the United Nations**

General Assembly

Agenda item 68: Promotion and Protection of the rights of Children

New York, 16 October 2015.

Madame Chairperson,

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by Myanmar on behalf of ASEAN. However, I wish to add few remarks in the national capacity.

Madame Chairperson,

The 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child which will be celebrated at the end of this year will provide an important opportunity for the international community to further enhance cooperation in the promotion and protection of the rights of children.

On its part, the Lao PDR is committed to the promotion and protection of the rights of children as children are future of our country. Over the past years, we have made remarkable progress in strengthening the legal and policy framework to protect women and children from all forms of violence, including domestic violence to strengthen legal framework for child justice. This includes, among others, the passing of the Law on Juvenile Criminal Procedure and the Law on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Children in 2013 and 2014 respectively. In addition, the new National Plan of Action to Prevent and Eliminate Violence against Children for the period of 2014-2020 was adopted by the Government to address all forms of violence in all settings.

In the meantime, the Lao Government has paid special attention to the health and education of the children by increasing the ratio of the national budget allocation to these sectors as a mean to improve service delivery. Nutrition strategy was adopted to ensure sufficient nutrition intake for children to promote healthy growth. Vaccination campaigns have been also carried out nationwide to prevent and eradicate preventable deceases. Free lunch school meals have been launched in some rural and remote areas as pilot projects which produced very satisfactory results in terms of promoting school attendance and preventing school drop-outs. As a result, these projects will be expanded to other areas of the country.

At the regional level, the Lao PDR has been actively participating in the regional cooperation framework, particularly, in the work of the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC) and attaches importance to the implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children adopted by the ASEAN Leaders in 2013.

Madame Chairperson,

Notwithstanding the significant achievements made as cited above, the challenges remain, especially in rural and remote areas where poverty is still prevalent and health services are insufficient. Therefore, the Lao Government will do its utmost to overcome such challenges so that the rights of all the children in our country is promoted and protected. We will not be complacent with our success but will take our weaknesses and shortcomings seriously to build the bright future for our children. May I take this opportunity to express our profound thanks to development partners, international organizations and United Nations development agencies and other stakeholders for their valuable assistance and support extended to us and look forward to their further support and assistance our that all our children can have a bright future.

Thank you.