



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

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**Statement by Mr. Vilatsone Visonnavong,  
First Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
to the UN at the Third Committee of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly  
Agenda item 68: Promotion and Protection of the rights of Children**

**New York, 10 October 2017.**

**Mr. Chairman,**

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

**Mr. Chairman,**

2. At the end of this year, we are going to celebrate the 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). It will be another important opportunity for the international community to raise the profile and the significance of the Convention so that the promotion and protection of the rights of the child will be further enhanced.

3. The Lao Government always holds the view that children are the future of our country. For this reason, the Lao Government has invested in child development, be it in education, health and the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. 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 as well as 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. The Law on Anti-Trafficking strengthens measures to protect and provide assistance to victims, including child victims. In addition, the Strategic Framework for Justice for Children in the Lao PDR (2010-2020) aims to support Government in the implementation of justice for child offenders, victims, and witnesses of crime and harmonizes the juvenile justice system with international standards and norms.

4. As a state party to the CRC, the Lao PDR has committed to the implementation of its obligations under the convention. We have made concerted

efforts to implement the CRC recommendations on the promotion and protection of the rights of the child. In December 2016, we submitted the National Report under article 44 of the CRC the combined third, fourth, fifth and sixth periodic reports.

5. The Lao Government has paid special attention to the health and education of the children by increasing the budget allocation to these sectors as a means to improve service delivery. Nutrition strategy to promote healthy growth is being implemented to ensure sufficient nutrition intakes for children. Vaccination campaigns have been also carried out nationwide to prevent and eradicate preventable deceases. Free lunch school meals projects have been expanded in most needed rural and remote areas to improve nutrition intakes for children and encourage school attendance and preventing school drop-outs.

6. 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.

**Mr. Chairman,**

7. Notwithstanding the significant achievements as cited above, more needs to be done, especially in rural and remote areas where poverty is still prevalent and health services are limited. With its own efforts and support from the international community, 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. I,

therefore, wish to express our profound thanks to the 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 the same in the years ahead so all our children can have a bright future.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.