



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

317 EAST 51st STREET NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022 TELEPHONE 212-832-2734 FAX 212-750-0039

(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by
Mr. Kanya Khammoungkhoun, Second Secretary,
Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to
the United Nations
At the Third Committee of the 67th Session of the General Assembly
on Agenda Item 28 (a-b): Advancement of Women**

New York, 16 October 2012

Mr Chairman,

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by distinguished Representatives of Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN and Representatives of Algeria on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

I thank the Secretary General for his comprehensive reports and recommendations made available under this agenda item, which underscores the need to further strengthening international efforts and cooperation to continue addressing the obstacles that hinder the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women around the world

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao Government recommits itself to the implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women as well as fully supports the outcome of the five-year review and appraisal contained in "Further Actions and Initiatives" to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the 23rd Special Session of the UN General Assembly of June 2000.

Today, this platform remains the most comprehensive global policy framework for the realization of gender equality. However, progress in its implementation has been uneven among areas and regions. Women remain vulnerable and often disadvantaged in many societies, especially those living in least developed rural areas whose roles are of great significant to social, political and economic development. There are several problems affecting women, such as poverty, violence and discrimination. Many women and girls are subjected to trafficking and exploitation on the daily basis, which undermine their dignity and fundamental rights.

In order to address these issues, it requires the full and effective implementation of all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action as well as the Outcome of the 23rd Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly. Acceleration of improving women's development should continue to be a subject of attention and serious consideration of the United Nations and international community. In this connection, it is important to agree that the goal of gender equality and the empowerment of women should feature prominently in the post-2015 development agenda.

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao Government attaches great importance to gender equality and considers it as an important element in its national development agenda. Over the past years, despite challenges faced by the Lao PDR, significant progress in reducing gender disparity has been made. The proportion of girls at primary school has risen steadily, for instance, in the academic year 2009-2010 girls' enrolment in primary school reached the ratio of 91.7 per cent compared to boys, and the number is continuing to grow. Moreover, the participation of women in policy making process has increased, particularly in the National Assembly, where women members account for more than 25 per cent and that also includes the President of the National Assembly. In public sector, women make up more than 40 per cent of all public servants, and it is more important that today the number of women holding decision-making positions in public sectors, such as Ministers, Vice Ministers and others has been progressively increased.

This success has certainly attributed to the Lao Government policy on the advancement of Women. The Lao National Commission for the Advancement in Women (Lao NCAW), which was set up in 2004, played a significant role in promoting gender equality. It constitutes the Government's coordinating mechanism that provides an excellent opportunity for the Government to consider gender issues across sectors. Lao NCAW has a nationwide network

across all Government agencies and local authorities in order to ensure that gender issue be mainstreamed into all sectors.

Mr. Chairman

The Lao Government has prioritised the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women in our national development agenda. The adoption of the 2nd National Strategy for the Advancement of Women for the year 2011-2015 demonstrated the continuing strong commitment of the government in assuring the promotion of gender equality and the protection of the right of all Lao women and girls in all areas, including political, economic and social-cultural rights. The strategy consolidates the four pillars namely:

1. Ensure legitimate rights of Lao women in all areas under its Constitution.
2. Improve national policy and strategy on women by mainstreaming gender perspective into policy and decision-making process in both public and private sectors from central to local levels
3. Improve women organisation structure at all levels. Under the supervision of the Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW), The Lao Women's Union (LWU) has been working actively with relevant stakeholders in the society to mainstream gender issue to all development frameworks.
4. Promote Public Awareness and Social Participation by emphasizing on the information collection and sharing. Undertake campaign through mass media and social networks.

Mr. Chairman,

We recognise that the prime responsibility of implementing this strategy lies with the Lao Government and the people of the Lao PDR. However, to ensure the success of its implementation and to help the Lao PDR meet its international obligations including attaining all international agreed development goals, such as MDGs and others, it would require further international support and cooperation. The Lao Government pledges its full cooperation to working with the international community in this regard. My delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to the UN Country Team and other development partners for their valuable supports rendered to the Lao government to fulfil its endeavour in this area.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman