



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

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**STATEMENT**

**BY**

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MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION  
OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**

**AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 62<sup>nd</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**NEW YORK, 1 OCTOBER 2007**

*Check Against Delivery*

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me convey, on behalf of the Government and people of the Lao PDR, my cordial salutations and congratulations to you on your election as President of the 62<sup>nd</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. I trust that with your wisdom and competence in multilateral diplomacy you will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. My commendations also go to H.E. Mrs. Haya Rashed Al Khalifa for the efficient leadership she provided in carrying out the work of the preceding session of the General Assembly.

May I take this opportunity to pay tribute to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his strong commitment to give the go-ahead to the reform process in pursuit of a strong, fully mobile and multi-functional United Nations. His great effort and dedication to the cause of enhancing peace and security and promoting global socio-economic development and justice deserve our praise too.

Mr. President,

The global circumstances continue to evolve with complexity and uncertainty though the tendency towards peace and multilateral cooperation for development increasingly becomes prominent. Today, our world remains far from being tranquil and secure. Parts of our planet are beset by violence, natural disasters and pandemics. All humankind goes on to live under the threat of nuclear weapons and with fear of terror and spread of WMDs. The fear will be much greater if those weapons fall into the wrong hands. Furthermore, the use or threat of use of force in the settlement of international problems and violations of sovereignty of member states persist without ebb. This hurdles the progress in the enhancement of international peace and security and development cooperation among member states.

Despite the fact that globalization offers new opportunities for development, developing countries, in particular the least developed countries (LDCs), landlocked developing countries (LLDCs) and small island developing states (SIDS) have not reaped benefits as they ought to. This is due primarily to the lack of basic infrastructure, access to markets, modern technology, financing and investment. To ensure greater benefits to those most vulnerable countries and enable them to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development and integration into the globalized economy, the international community must intensify concerted efforts to assist them in fully and effectively implementing their respective Programmes of Action as called for in the World Summit 2005 Outcome. The said efforts should include strengthened international partnership, increased ODA, greater market access and special and preferential tariffs for their exports. Further measures should be taken to ensure debt sustainability, improved mechanisms for technology transfer and promotion of equitable structures of international trade and finance in favour of developing countries, specially the most vulnerable among them. These vulnerable groups of countries are faced with a great deal of challenges and constraints owing to their generally poor social records and weakest rates of economic growth. If left alone, they will not be capable of living up to their international commitments, including MDGs. Therefore, the

international community should give priority to the provision of both financial and technical assistance in the form of grant aid or soft loan to these countries.

Mr. President,

Apart from other ills, the world community is facing challenges caused by human activity such as climate change which affects all nations, rich and poor. Yet, the member states who suffer most from this catastrophe are the least developed countries and small island developing states. This is due to their lack of resources and capacity for adaptation. In this context, we appreciate the leading role the UN Secretary-General is playing to reinforce global action to meet the challenges. I believe the outcome of the just Concluded High-level Dialogue on this defining issue will significantly contribute to the successful negotiations on a comprehensive agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to deal with the matter. I would hereby like to affirm that efforts to address climate change should by no means compromise the attainment of the development objectives of developing countries, aimed at purging poverty, hunger and disease. Addressing the issue should fully cover the three pillars of sustainable development: economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The efforts should be pursued within the relevant framework of the United Nations, especially the UNFCCC, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibility between the developed and developing countries. To enable the developing countries, particularly the two most vulnerable groups among them to achieve sustainable development and adjust measures to address climate change, the developed countries which bear the major responsibility for global warming and climate change should provide them the necessary financing for adaptation, mitigation and transfer of appropriate technology.

Mr. President,

For the United Nations to meet daunting challenges that lie ahead, it should transform itself into a strong, efficient and effective organization. To this end, the UN reform process should be conducted in a comprehensive, inclusive, transparent and balanced manner. A strong and effective UN would better perform its mandate to maintain international peace and security through peaceful settlement of disputes and promotion of international cooperation for development. However, the UN reform process would not be complete without the Security Council being restructured into a more legitimate, representative, democratic and effective organ. In this regard, we welcome the efforts undertaken thus far by member states to move the reform process forward.

Mr. President,

Like other member states, the Lao PDR welcomes the progress achieved thus far in the implementation of the outcome the six-party talks on nuclear issue in the Korean Peninsular. We believe that through committed efforts by all concerned parties, the result of the talks will be fully translated into action, thus contributing to the eventual denuclearization in the region.

The Lao PDR reaffirms its continued support to the resolutions of the General Assembly urging for an end to the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed on Cuba. Contrary to international law and the UN Charter these coercive measures have caused great difficulties and losses to the people of Cuba.

The prolonged and persistent violence in the Middle East remains a cause of concern to the world community. As a result, the Palestinian, Lebanese and Iraqi peoples have suffered great losses in human life and property. The violence has also created obstacles to the lifting up of living conditions of these peoples. The Lao PDR reaffirms its support to the Palestinian people in their struggle for the right to self-determination, including the right to establish a sovereign and independent State of Palestine, living side by side in peace with Israel and other countries in the region. It is hopeful that the situation in Lebanon will be restored to normalcy through the effective implementation of the relevant UN resolutions. Likewise, we express our earnest hope that peace, security and national reconciliation would be reinstated as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR is enjoying unwavering peace, political and social stability and economic growth. The year 2006-07 is the second year of continued implementation of the Sixth Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (2006-2010) of the Lao PDR. As a result, significant achievements have been recorded. The poverty rate declined from 48% in 1990 to 28,7% in 2005, opium cultivation has been completely eradicated in 2006, the practice of shifting cultivation which has contributed to a negative impact on environment declined from 118,900 hectares in 2001 to 29,400 hectares in 2005. Tourism, particularly cultural and eco-tourism has been broadly promoted and expanded, thus attracting more and more tourists to the country. The Lao Government continue to pursue a development policy that is aimed at environment protection, promotion of sustainable development, sustained use and conservation of natural resources, exploitation of clean energy, protection of environment and ecosystem.

In November 2006, in cooperation with the UN System, the Lao Government held the 9<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Meeting, which provided an opportunity to the development partners and various Lao Government agencies to share and discuss the Five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan with a view to making the implementation process more inclusive. In addition, the Meeting was also aimed at resource mobilization. It adopted "Vientiane Declaration on Aid Effectiveness" that truly reflects the commitments of the Lao Government and its development partners to improve the coordination and effectiveness of official development assistance.

In pursuance of its foreign policy of peace, friendship and cooperation with all countries in the world, the Lao PDR, to date, has established diplomatic relations with 125 countries and become member of various regional and international organizations with a view to integrating itself into the regional and international economic system. One of the significant events for the Lao PDR this year is the convening of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Ministerial Meeting of Francophonie scheduled from 20-21 November 2007 in Vientiane. As the host

country, the Lao Government would like to encourage all member states to participate and actively contribute to the success of this Meeting.

Mr. President,

To conclude, the Lao PDR reaffirms its unswerving commitment to continue cooperating with the international community in pursuit of a peaceful, equitable and prosperous world free of fear and want to ensure the well-being of all peoples on the basis of respect for the principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as recognition of diversity and respect for social, cultural and historic reality of each country. To that end, greater efforts and sacrifices are definitely required from us all. Yet, I am sure that together we will be able to make it happen.

I thank you, Mr. President.