



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

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Statement by Mr. Vassana Mounsaveng, Third Secretary,  
Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR to the United Nations at the Sixth Committee of the 72nd  
Session of the United Nations General Assembly on "Rule of Law at the National and  
International Level" (Agenda item 84),  
4-5 October 2017.

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, my delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of ASEAN.
2. My delegation thanks the Secretary-General for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities which highlighted support and activities to strengthen the rule of law at the national and international level, making United Nations rule of law assistance more effective and coherent and moving forward: effectiveness, coherence and sustainability.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Equality before the law is the concept that has been widely endorsed and practiced worldwide. It is a solid and necessary foundation for fairness that can promote sustaining peace, stability and social order both domestically and internationally. Wherever and whenever - without rule of law, it is likely to induce chaotic, disorder and instability society where all forms of social evils such as crimes, drugs trafficking, corruption, violation of human rights, etc. will be widespread. Therefore, the rule of law at the national and international levels is an important fundamental measure to promote justice, peace and security as enshrined in the charter of the United Nations and it is relevant to all the three pillars of the United Nations which have been set out in the Charter of the United Nations, namely, peace and security, development and human rights.

Mr. Chairman,

2. The Lao PDR attaches great importance to the principles and norms of international law and its roles as the legal means for expanding the Lao PDR's relations and cooperation with the international community with the view to promoting and enhancing regional and international cooperation. As of now, the Lao PDR has been a state party to over 900 international treaties, conventions and agreements in various areas, including 450 bilateral agreements with 139 countries. The Lao PDR has ratified, approved, accepted or acceded to more than 450 multilateral instruments adopted by the United Nations (UN), UN Specialized Agencies, other

International Organizations, ASEAN and Other regional organizations. During the Treaty Event last month, the Lao PDR deposited the instrument of Accession to the Minamata Convention on Mercury and signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

3. Domestically, the Lao PDR continues to pass new and amend existing laws and regulations to create conditions for the implementation in good faith of the international treaties and conventions of which we are party to. Domestic laws were amended to meet requirements contained in multilateral treaties. For instance, the National Assembly is considering the draft law on Treaty and International Agreement. Over the past years, the National assembly has passed more than 121 laws. In addition to the Constitution and laws enacted by the National Assembly, a large number of sub-laws including Presidential Decrees and Ordinances, Prime Minister's Decrees, ministerial and provincial regulations and other legal acts, were adopted in accordance with the Constitution and laws, which formed part of the national framework for developing and promoting rule of law in the country.

Mr. Chairman,

4. In conclusion, the Lao PDR believes that the rule of law is essential for the advancement of peace and security, development and human rights in individual States and at the international level. The Lao PDR consistently supports the settlement of disputes by peaceful means as enshrined in the UN Charter.

5. The Lao PDR is committed to working with fellow member states, international organizations and other partners to further promote the rule of law at the national and the international levels.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.