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Statement by

Mr. Sackpaseuth Sisouk, Third Secretary

at the Sixth Committee of the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly on Agenda item 111: "Measure to eliminate international terrorism"

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to begin by extending our sincere congratulations to you, Madam Chairperson and other members of the Bureau on your election to the Sixth Committee. We strongly believe that under your leadership, the work of the Committee will achieve a successful outcome. The Lao PDR takes note with appreciation, the Secretary-General's report in document A/76/201.

My delegation associates itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Cambodia and Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of ASEAN and Non-Aligned Movement, respectively.

Madam Chairperson,

My delegation is of the view that the issue of counter-terrorism remains critical for maintaining regional and international peace and security. Act of terrorism in all forms and its manifestations does not only cause tragic loss of lives and property, but also hinders socio-economic advancement including the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Therefore, my delegation reiterates its strong support and cooperation with the international community to find all means and adopt appropriate measures to eliminate international terrorism. In this regard, we are of the view that all measures to eliminate international terrorism should be used in accordance with the principles of the United Nations and International Law, and with respect to national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Madam Chairperson,

On its part, the Lao PDR has actively been engaged in cooperation mechanism at all levels under the related international conventions against terrorism which the country is a party to. Towards this end, the Lao PDR has on a regular basis, improved its domestic law in compliance with the international conventions, and all possible acts of terrorism have been incorporated into its Penal Code and identified as serious criminal offenses, including money-laundering and financing of terrorism.

To enhance better understanding and awareness among our officials and relevant authorities, the Lao Government, in collaboration with UNODC and other UN agencies, has conducted a series of workshops and seminars to increase awareness on international terrorism at the central and local levels. This effort will make an important contribution to the implementation of the obligations under related international conventions on terrorism.

Nevertheless, more still remain to be done. To further strengthen regional and international cooperation in this area, my delegation is of the view that regular exchange of experiences, expertise and best practices is of particular importance, especially in building capacity for the relevant authorities at national level. In addition, particular attention must be given to building national capacity for officials and authorities in least developed countries including the development of appropriate toolkits on counter terrorism and transfer of knowledge and technology.

Madam Chairperson,

In conclusion, as a peace-loving nation, the Lao PDR reiterates its firm commitment to promoting and supporting the global efforts on counter terrorism in line with the principles of the UN Charter and International Law. Nevertheless, without effective international support mechanism, this endeavor will remain an uphill task. On this note, my delegation expresses its profound appreciation to all friendly countries and international organizations for the continued support and cooperation rendered to the Lao PDR.

Thank you.