Statement by

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At the Sixth Committee of the 79th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 84: "The rule of law at the national and international levels"
New York, 17-18 October 2024

*(Please check against delivery)*

Mr. Chair,

My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by Singapore on behalf of ASEAN.

The Lao PDR commends the Secretary-General for his report on the rule of law at the national and international levels, as contained in document A/79/117. We believe that the rule of law plays a crucial role in ensuring peace, security, and social order. Firmly upholding the rule of law will create a conducive environment for member states to address the complex global challenges and to ensure peaceful conditions, equal opportunities, and respect for the rights and dignity of all citizens.

My delegation is of the view that enhancing the rule of law at the international level is our common responsibility. In doing so, we must start from the national level, and respecting the rule of law should be a primary obligation for the governments. At this challenging time, every state must fully adhere to the principles of the UN Charter, as a cornerstone for ensuring the rule of law at the international level. This includes, among others, refraining from interference in the internal affairs of other countries, and respecting the right to self-determination and the choice of selecting a legal system.

Mr Chair,

The Lao PDR attaches great importance to promoting the rule of law at the national level. In this regard, the Five-Year Plan on Developing and Amending Legal Instruments (2021-2025) was adopted in 2021. Likewise, this year the National Assembly has passed more than 13 laws, among them 2 are newly developed and 11 are amended. To date, there are 64 laws was adopted, 17 of which are newly developed and 47 are amended.

To disseminate the existing laws, the government has organized a nationwide campaign and workshops for all relevant sectors to increase awareness among the general public, improve the legal counselling system and services to local citizens. Moreover, mobile clinics have been established to provide necessary training for legal officers at both central and provincial levels. In 2019, the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) launched a new Legal Aid Website to provide information on available legal services and details for all available legal aid offices.

In addition, several campaign materials and media have been published to provide information on legal aid, violence against women and children, human trafficking, and notary services to increase public understanding of the law and their legitimate rights. Importantly, measures to prevent corruption have also been adopted as part of the national Plan of Action on Prevention and Anti-corruption for 2016-2025.

Mr. Chair,

To further enhance the rule of law at national and international levels, it is critical that all member states continue to enhance our collaboration, share lessons learned and best practices as well as provide capacity-building programs and technical assistance, particularly for developing countries.

To conclude, my delegation re-affirms our unwavering commitment to working closely with all UN member states to uphold the rule of law and multilateralism.

I thank you.