



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

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC

AT

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE SIXTY FOURTH SEESION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

NEW YORK, 26 SEPTEMBER 2009

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Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Lao Delegation, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency Dr. Ali Abdussalam Treki, on your election as President of the General Assembly at its Sixty-fourth Session. I trust that under your able presidency our session would be guided to a successful outcome. Let me also seize this opportunity to convey our deepest appreciation to His Excellency Mr. Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann, who presided over the previous General Assembly with dedication and distinction. By the same token, I extend our great appreciation to the UN Secretary-General, H.E Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, for his leadership and commitment to the work of the United Nations at a time when our world is facing numerous grave challenges.

Mr. President,

In recent years, the international situation has undergone swift change filled with various challenges. The United Nations - a unique world body, has been playing an increasingly important role in maintaining international peace and security, promoting peaceful settlement of disputes and international cooperation for development. In this rapidly changing world, it is our common duty and responsibility as members of the United Nations to ensure that the United Nations carry out its mandate effectively. To this end, the UN reform is crucial and should be comprehensive, transparent and balanced while keeping its intergovernmental, universal and democratic character, consistent with the UN Charter. The revitalization of the General Assembly, the reform of the Security Council, as well as the strengthening of the Economic and Social Council and Specialized Agencies should be guided by the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability with a view to making this universal organization a body that truly represents the benefits and interests of all member states. In this context, the Lao PDR welcomes the launching of the Intergovernmental Negotiations on Security Council reform and will continue to contribute to this important effort in this new phase of the Security Council reform process.

Mr. President,

The ongoing impasse in the multilateral disarmament machinery continues to undermine international peace and security. The existence of nuclear weapons remains a grave threat to the existence of all mankind, and thus, it is vital to reinforce the importance of States to adhere to their nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation obligations. The upcoming 2010 Review Conference will be a great opportunity for the States Parties to the NPT to demonstrate strong political commitments and collective efforts to resolve the current stalemate in the non-proliferation and disarmament agenda. In this regard, it is encouraging that the Third PrepCom for the 2010 Review Conference successfully adopted the agenda and all significant procedural decisions, which will undoubtedly lay an important foundation for a productive and successful review Conference in 2010.

In conjunction with arms reduction and nuclear disarmament, the issue of explosive remnants of war known as cluster munitions or Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) continues to threaten and pose serious obstacles to the socio-economic development and poverty eradication effort in more than 80 countries across the world. Among these, the Lao PDR is the most affected country, the cluster munitions victims in the Lao PDR accounts for 50% of the global cluster munitions victims which is about 300 victims recorded annually in the course of 30 years after the war ended. That was due to the fact that 37% of the whole country's territory remains contaminated with UXO. This would require enormous financial resources and time to remove some of UXO from the areas needed the most for development and daily community livelihood. However, there has not yet been a definite estimation on how many hundred years are required to clear all UXO contaminated areas across the country.

Mr. President,

In light of the adverse impact imposed by the cluster munitions, the Lao PDR attaches great importance to the Oslo Convention on banning and eradicating cluster munitions. In this context, we welcome and commend those countries which have signed and ratified the Oslo Convention and we hope that other countries which have not done so would follow suit in order to allow this Convention to enter into force as soon as possible. In order to prepare for the future implementation of this Convention, the Lao Government has offered to host the First Conference of State Parties to the Oslo Convention after it enters into force. We hope that our offer would receive broad support from all countries and international organizations.

Mr. President,

Despite the fact that peace, development and cooperation have become the trend of our times, tensions, conflicts, violence, terrorism and security threats still persist in various parts of the world. The Lao PDR is greatly dismayed by the prolonged conflict in the Middle East that continues to inflict immense sufferings on millions of people in the region, particularly, on the Palestinian people, who have been struggling to exercise their legitimate inalienable rights to self-determination and Statehood. Although a number of encouragement and renewed hope in addressing the Middle East problem have been widely expressed in the course of our General Debate, however, this would be realized only if all concerned parties demonstrate their commitments in addressing the impasse with a view to realizing the vision of two states of Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security within recognized borders in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions. We also remain concerned over the decade long economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on the Republic of Cuba. Now it is time to end this sanction.

Mr. President,

The climate change continues to be a pressing concern and imposes enormous challenges to the survival of humankind. Against this backdrop, it requires urgent and global measures in conformity with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. To this end, the integration of three pillars of sustainable development namely economic, social development and environment protection should be enhanced with a view to effective implementation of Bali Action Plan. In this context, we highly commend the UN Secretary-General for his initiatives to convene the High-Level Event on Climate Change on 22 September 2009, in which the world leaders had an opportunity to discuss concrete measures and potential solutions to the consequences of climate change as well as to prepare for the Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark. In addition, strong commitments by the world leaders have been made in adopting necessary actions to reduce greenhouse gas emission, promoting green economy, as well as providing assistance in the area of mitigation and adaptation, generating alternative energy including technology transfer from developed to developing countries in order to enable them to respond to the consequences and impacts of climate change. The Lao PDR welcomes and supports the recommendations to launch a new Global Compact entailing a "Green New Deal", which will no doubt provide an excellent platform to tackle the current global challenges, promote the investment in the green economy, lay the foundations to deal with critical long-term issues and help create a future based on a low-carbon economy, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Mr. President,

The multiple global crises, especially the financial and economic crisis, have had many adverse effects on the developing world, in particular on the most vulnerable groups. This is due primarily to the lack of basic infrastructure, access to markets, lack of resources and modern technology, capacity to provide financing and investment remains low. To address this crisis, various forms of consultation and approaches have been undertaken in an attempt to mitigate the long-term impacts of the crisis. In this regard, we welcome the initiatives of G8, G20 and other international forums to build a mechanism that will help find solutions to the crisis including the recommendations of the High-level Meeting on Economic and Financial Crisis held here in June this year.

As one of the most vulnerable countries in the world, the Lao PDR is of the view that all initiatives and measures undertaken must be effectively and timely implemented. In particular, it is important to address the unpredictability and vulnerability of commodity market, provide preferential treatment to the goods from developing countries, especially from the most vulnerable ones, ensure a smooth solution to debt issue, improve technology transfer mechanism and reform international financial system. The Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries to be held in early 2011 will provide a good opportunity for the international community to review its responsibility and commitment pledged to the least developed countries, as well as to

identify obstacles and constraints and seek possible solutions to them, particularly in the wake of such an increasing economic and financial crisis.

Mr. President,

The solid political stability and social order in the Lao PDR have provide favourable conditions for national economic development. Nevertheless, the Lao PDR has also been adversely affected by the recent global economic and financial crisis at a certain level. This has caused a slowdown in economic development. The growth of the main economic sectors such as industry, service and agriculture has decreased by 2-3%. The trade sector was also affected, export has dropped by 28%. Against this backdrop, the Lao Government has undertaken an urgent action by identifying 8 measures and 80 priority areas to address. As a result of such action, the Lao PDR has been able to mitigate certain degree of adverse impact of the crisis. However, due to uncertainty of today's global economy, like other developing countries, the Lao PDR would remain vulnerable and would still need the support and cooperation from the international community to respond to the crisis with a view to preventing a long-term impact of the crisis that may occur at any time as well as to achieve the millennium development goals and the ultimate national goal of quitting the country from the status of least developed country by 2020.

Mr. President,

Today, more than ever, the international community has the responsibility and also the opportunity to promote solidarity and strengthen international cooperation in jointly addressing these global problems as no country can weather the threats and challenges confronting it alone. In this spirit, the Lao PDR reiterates its unshakable commitment to continued full cooperation with the international community in pursuit of a world free from fear and want, rooted in a new, just and equitable order. I believe that with great solidarity, we will be able to achieve the above mentioned goals.

Thank You.