



PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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

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STATEMENT  
BY  
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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER,  
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
HEAD OF DELEGATION OF THE LAO PDR  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 60<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE UNGA

New York, 20 September 2005

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your unanimous election as President of the 60<sup>th</sup> session of the UN General Assembly. I am confident that, with your experience and diplomatic skills, you will guide our deliberations to a successful outcome. I would also like to convey our great appreciation to H.E Mr. Jean Ping, President of the 59<sup>th</sup> UNGA session for the efficient manner in which he presided over our work as well as the good accomplishments recorded during the last session.

Mr. President,

Sixty years after its creation, the United Nations, our only multilateral organization is at a crossroads. When the organization was established, the promotion of peace and security as well as that of economic and social development were its main objectives. It was then conceived to spare the succeeding generations from the scourge of war and insecurity and to reduce and eradicate poverty and move toward economic prosperity for all. Today, the world is still filled with conflicts, violence, insecurity, hunger, poverty, and despair. We have therefore every reason to act collectively to reform and strengthen this multilateral institution to enable it to effectively address the many complex challenges the world is now facing.

In this reform process, revitalizing the UN General Assembly has now become one of the crucial issues the member States ought to deal with. In our opinion, the UN General Assembly which consists of all the members of the United Nations should continue to play a central role as chief deliberative policy-making and representative organ. It should serve as a forum for high-level policy statement, as well as for the consideration, inter alia, of agenda items of special political importance and/or urgency. In order to strengthen the role and authority of the General Assembly, we member States should stress on the need to fully respect and restore the balance between the principal organs of the United Nations within their respective purviews and mandates, in accordance with the UN Charter.

In 2000, the leaders of member states of the United Nations at the Millennium Summit have resolved to strive for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. In this regard, we regret that the seventh Review Conference of the State Parties of the NPT, held in New York from 2 to 26 May 2005, was unable to reach consensus on the substantive questions surrounding the three pillars of NPT. The Lao PDR is of the view that all the State Parties should remain committed to the NPT and maintains that it should continue to have an important cornerstone status in the global disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction framework.

Mr. President,

The world economy continues to be characterized by slow and lopsided growth and instability. Globalization may offer a great deal of opportunities to a number of countries, however, it also presents numerous challenges and risks for the developing world, particularly for the most vulnerable groups, namely the Least Developed Countries and the Landlocked Developing Countries. In reality, among and within countries, the process of globalization has not produced equal benefits. The gap between the developed and developing world is widening and we are all greatly concerned about the increased poverty in many developing countries. In order for developing countries to reap benefits from globalization, an enabling external economic environment for development is required. To this end, we should all strive to achieve greater coherence between the international trading, monetary, and financial systems.

Among the most vulnerable groups, the land-locked developing countries (LLDCs) deserve special attention. The Almaty Programme of Action, this landmark document, adopted in

2003, with its 5 priority areas, the Sao Paulo Consensus adopted in 2004 by UNCTAD XI, which recognized, among other things, LLDCs as small and vulnerable economies and other relevant UNGA Resolutions, are significant achievements on which this Group is building, in order to forge ahead and move forward in promoting its legitimate cause. In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of LLDCs, I appeal to the international community for sympathy and support in our endeavors.

In order to strengthen the unity and solidarity among countries of the South and as a follow-up to the implementation of the Havana Program of Action adopted by the First South Summit in the year 2000, the Second South Summit of the Group of 77 and China was held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 16 June 2005. The Doha Declaration and Plan of Action were adopted by this Second South Summit, calling for a more energetic effort to deepen and revitalize South-South cooperation with a view to enhancing sustained economic growth and sustainable development of countries of the South.

Last April, in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Asian-African Summit was held with the objective of reinvigorating the spirit of the 1955 Bandung Conference and charting the future cooperation between the two continents towards a new Asian-African Strategic Partnership (NAASP). The NAASP, adopted at the said Summit, constitutes an important building block in further strengthening South-South cooperation.

Likewise, I wish to commend H.E.Mr Kofi Annan, the UN Secretary General for exerting tremendous efforts in ensuring the success of the High-Level Plenary Meeting of the UNGA. The Lao PDR highly values the outcome document adopted by our Heads of State and Government in which they have reaffirmed the Millennium Declaration and their commitment to implementing effectively and fully the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries and the Almaty Programme of Action Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit. Developing Countries.

Mr. President,

Given the aspiration of the overwhelming majority of member states, the Second South Summit held in Doha, has called upon the Government of the United States to put an end to the economic, commercial, and financial embargo against Cuba which, in addition to being

unilateral and contrary to UN Charter and international law, and to the principle of neighborliness, causes huge material loss and economic damage to the people of Cuba.

On the Korean Peninsular, we welcome the recent resumption of the six-party talks which has yielded important progress. The Lao PDR expresses the hope that the concerned parties would further deploy their joint efforts and undertake concrete actions, based on the principles and commitments as contained in the Joint Declaration of September 19, 2005 on the establishment of a nuclear weapon-free Korean peninsular thus contributing to the promotion of peace, security, stability and development cooperation in the wider Asia Pacific Region.

In the Middle East, although the situation remains difficult and complex, a number of progress have been made that ought to be further promoted. In order to achieve a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region, the question of Palestine in all its aspects should be resolved in accordance with international law and relevant UN Resolutions. In this regard, the Lao PDR reaffirms its unswerving support to the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people, under the leadership of the PLO to exercise their right to self-determination, including their right to establish their independent state of Palestine living side by side with Israel.

The situation in Iraq continues to be a matter of concern to the international community. It is our sincere hope that durable peace, security and stability could be soon secured in this country, paving the way for the Iraqi people to be truly the master of their own future and destiny.

Mr. President,

The year 2005 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the proclamation of the Lao PDR, a historic event of utmost significance in the political life of the nation. In general, the national economy continues to grow at a sustained pace. For 2004-2005, the rate of growth has reached 7.2%, foreign investment is on the increase, political stability, social tranquility and safety are secured, the people's livelihood is further improving. The multi-ethnic Lao people while enjoying fundamental rights including the right to believe or not to believe in any religion stand firmly united in nation building. Furthermore, the Lao PDR remains committed to implementing the policy aimed at establishing of State governed by Law to ensure freedom, democracy and the legitimate interests of Lao citizens, foreign residents and foreigners living and working in the Lao PDR.

On the external front, the Lao PDR has vigorously participated in multi-faceted regional and international activities for peace, stability, friendship and promotion of development cooperation. One of the greatest historic event for the Lao PDR was the hosting of the 10th ASEAN Summit in November 2004, followed by the successful conclusion of the 38<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Ministerial Meeting ( AMM ), Post Ministerial Conferences ( PMCs ) and the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Regional Forum ( ARF ) on 25-29 July 2005. This reflects the high sense of responsibility of the entire multi-ethnic Lao people in the discharge of the country's chairmanship of ASEAN during the past 12 months.

Furthermore, these accomplishments have significantly contributed to narrowing the development gaps within ASEAN member countries and fostering the realization of an ASEAN Community which comprises 3 pillars namely the ASEAN Security Community, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community that are closely intertwined and mutually reinforcing for the purpose of ensuring durable peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region. ASEAN do hope that friendly countries and the United Nations will be more involved in the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme ( VAP ) and the ASEAN Development Fund ( ADF ) for the regional economic integration, especially in the areas which include human resource development, infrastructure, information technology and energy development.

Mr. President,

Peace cannot be achieved without development. Development can be realized through cooperation among nations, with the United Nations playing an important catalytic role. This only universal multilateral organization, however, cannot be strengthened, if it does not embrace, in equal measure, the concerns of all, including the small, vulnerable, and weak, which represent the majority of its members. In this prospect, we should all remind ourselves that not only will our words and espoused principles be judged by our future generations, but so will the actions that we are undertaking to bring about development for the whole humanity.

Thank you.