



**LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC**  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E Mr. Choummaly SAYASONE**

**President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**at the General Assembly of the 65<sup>th</sup> Session  
of the United Nations General Assembly**

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**(Please check against delivery)**

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to H.E Mr. Joseph Deiss on his election as President of the 65<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the United Nations. I am fully confident that with your large experience you would be able to lead this session of the General Assembly to a great success. May I also commend H.E Dr. Ali Abdulsalam Treki, President of the 64<sup>th</sup> UNGA for the effective leadership he showed during the previous UNGA Session. I would also like to applaud UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for his leadership in fulfilling effectively the various duties and tasks mandated in order to address the current emerging challenges and constraints.

Mr. President,

Today, the global state of affairs has undergone rapid change and become more complex offering both opportunities and challenges. The Global and regional peace and security are being threatened by conflicts and armed confrontation. Severe natural disasters that had never occurred before, today have become a regular phenomenon that we have to live with. The tragedy caused by the natural catastrophes such as in Haiti, China, Pakistan and others, has intensified coupled with economic crisis, which we are already facing. No one shall be able to deny that the main cause of this calamity and challenges are mostly the result of our own human action. The national challenge has gone beyond its boundary and become a subject of international concern, which a single country or even a group of countries alone cannot overcome. Therefore, it is the full responsibility of the international community as a whole to tackle it.

Against this backdrop, it is time for us to fully realize all the promises and commitments pledged. The UN Reform process which has been pending throughout the past decades should continue in a more concrete manner with a view to ensuring the mutual benefits for all member states. The reform should also aim to ensure the relevant and effective role of the United Nations as being the only universal organization contributing to addressing the global challenges. To achieve these objectives it is critical for all the member states to enhance our cooperation in a sincere and trustworthy manner and avoid taking advantage from one another.

Mr. President,

Peace and stability continue to be threatened by weapons of mass destruction especially nuclear weapons. The results of the NPT Review held in May this year did not, by any means, meet our expectations in addressing the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and making our world free from nuclear weapons. The consensus is far from being reached due to manifest suspicion and distrust over one another. Therefore, it is time to build trust and confidence aiming at creating enabling international environment for a nuclear-free world.

The use and proliferation of weapons in all forms will undoubtedly have a long-term impact on life of people and impede national social-economic development efforts. In the Lao PDR, despite the fact that wars have ended several decades ago, the country is still badly suffering from their consequences. The legacy of the Indochina War has left behind a huge amount of remnants and the unexploded ordnances (UXO) which have continued to kill and injure innocent lives, causing major obstacles to a day-to-day life of the Lao people. Over 30 percent of the total Lao soil is heavily contaminated by the UXO constituting major constraints and challenges for the Lao PDR to achieve its national social and economic development objectives and to attain the MDGs.

The Oslo Convention which has entered into force since 1 August 2010 is a result of close cooperation and shared commitment of the international community to put an end to the serious impact and to free people from the danger of cluster bombs. As the country most affected by the unexploded ordnance especially the cluster munitions, it is a great pride for the Lao PDR to play an active part in the Oslo Process which has led to the adoption of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Lao PDR will continue to render its close cooperation with the international community to ensure that this Convention is fully implemented. In this context, it is a great honor for the Lao PDR to host the First Meeting of State Parties to the Oslo Convention in Vientiane from 9-12 November 2010, an event that will mark an important milestone for the Oslo Process and provide an opportunity for the international community to reaffirm its strong determination to address the challenges caused by cluster munitions. Likewise, this First State Parties Meeting will offer an excellent occasion to us to chart out a clear vision and adopt appropriate mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the Oslo Convention. On this note, once again I would like to extend my Government's cordial invitation to all UN member countries, international organizations and non-governmental organizations concerned to participate and play an active part in the discussions and ensure the successful outcome of the Conference.

Mr. President,

Regional peace and security remain critical for ensuring global peace. We share a common concern over the situation in the Middle East which has caused great suffering and immense loss on lives and property of the people in that region, specially the Palestinian people. It is my fervent hope that the resumption of peace-talk between Israel and Palestine, with participation of the United States, will lead to a solution and realize the vision of creating the two states of Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace, security and within internationally recognized borders as stipulated in the relevant Resolutions of the UN Security Council.

The Republic of Cuba is a sovereign state politically solid, enjoying durable peace and security throughout the past decades. Nevertheless, over half of a century, the people of Cuba have been affected by the economic, trade and financial embargo imposed on them by the United States. Indeed, such embargo constitutes a clear violation of UN Charter and international law. Therefore, in order to respond to the legitimate interests of the two

countries and peoples, Cuba and the United States, it is now time for the said embargo to be lifted.

Mr. President,

The cooperation among South-East Asian countries has been steadily expanding. The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has set an objective of building the ASEAN community comprising three pillars to be realized by 2015 namely ASEAN Political-Security, ASEAN Economic Community and ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. To attain this objective, ASEAN has laid important socio-economic foundation such as having Free Trade Area among ASEAN countries as well as between ASEAN and China, ASEAN and Republic of Korea, ASEAN and Japan and ASEAN-Australia-New Zealand. Furthermore, the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity will be adopted at the 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Summit to be held in Hanoi in October 2010 to support ASEAN Free Trade Area. The successful cooperation within ASEAN has contributed to the effort in narrowing the development gap within ASEAN as well as between ASEAN and other countries. It also helps the ASEAN countries attain MDGs.

Mr. President,

While the world is faced with financial and economic crisis coupled with various natural calamities, the most impacted are the least developed countries, the poor and the vulnerable in the society. The main objective of attaining MDGs by the international community is to ensure that the livelihood of the poor and disadvantaged is improved and the number of least developed countries is reduced. This would testify that we can achieve the MDGs. In this context, the ten-year review of the implementation of Brussels Program of Action for LDCs to be held in 2011 would be crucial. We will assess whether 7 commitments that we together endorsed in 2001 are met. On this note, I would like to commend the UN Secretary General for setting up a group of eminent persons on Least Developed Countries to advise on the support to LDCs.

Mr. President,

The year 2010 is of great significance for the Lao PDR. Our country has completed the implementation of the 6<sup>th</sup> Five-year Socio-Economic Development Plan and already started the preparation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Plan for 2011-2015. Over the past years, our socio-economic development has been steadily progressing. The economy has grown at an average rate of 7% annually, poverty has continuously declined, and livelihood of the Lao multiethnic people has been gradually improved. All this success has been due to the right policy and the timely measures undertaken by the Lao Government and the decisive factors creating enabling environment for socio-economic development in the Lao PDR is political stability and social order that our nation has enjoyed over the past three decades.

Nevertheless, the Lao PDR remains challenged by the global financial and economic crisis to a certain extent that contributes to the decline of our economic growth. Against this backdrop, the Lao Government has adopted an immediate measure that has helped us to alleviate the impact of the crisis. However, due to the uncertainty of the state of today's global economy, like other developing countries, the Lao PDR is still vulnerable, thus requiring the assistance and support from the international community in addressing the impact of the crisis in the long run so as to help the Lao PDR overcome any eventuality of the future crisis as well as to enable us to achieve MDGs and the ultimate goal of quitting the status of LDC by 2020.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR reiterates once again its firm commitment and willingness to work closely with the international community to build a peaceful world under a just and more democratic new order, based on cooperation with all countries in tackling the various global challenges facing us. I am convinced that only through genuine partnership we would be able to ensure that the world is secured, peaceful and prosperous.

Thank you