



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

**H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at the 73rd Session
of the United Nations General Assembly**

29 September 2018, New York

Madame President,

I would like to begin by congratulating you, Ms. María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés on your election as President of the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. It is our great pleasure to see a woman chairing this august body and I assure you of our full support and cooperation and wish you every success in discharging your noble duty. Likewise, I wish to extend my congratulations to His Excellency Miroslav Lajčák for the successful completion of his tenure as President of the 72nd Session of the UNGA.

Madame President,

The 2030 Agenda that promises to leave no one behind has encompassed all the prerequisites for us all to build a peaceful and prosperous world. In order to meet this lofty goal of 2030 Agenda, the national governments and the international community have to work hand in hand to implement it and it requires international peace and security that would create conducive environment for economic growth and social progress, while enhancing international cooperation and assistance with priorities given to the most vulnerable groups of countries, namely LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

To realize the 2030 Agenda and achieve the SDGs, the Lao Government has incorporated the SDG targets into its 8th five-year National Socio-Economic Development Plan for 2016-2020 soon after the adoption of the Agenda 2030. Given its specific need, the Lao PDR has gone extra mile by adopting the national SDG 18 entitled “Lives Safe from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)” to address the problem caused by UXO. At the High-level Political Forum held in July this year, the Lao Government presented its first Voluntary National Review on SDGs