

Statement by

H.E. Mme Sisay Leudomounsoune

Vice President of the

Lao National Commission for the Advancement of Women

President of Lao Women's Union

At the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women

New York, 03 March 2010

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me to represent the Government of Lao PDR at the 54th session of the Commission on the Status of Women. I strongly believe that through this meeting, The Lao PDR delegation will learn from experiences of the women's movement worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

Through the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and the Outcomes of the Twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly, significant success has been achieved in the advancement of Lao women. Yet much more remains to be done. In case of the Lao PDR, after 15th years of implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action and its critical areas of concern, Lao PDR has recorded major progress in the following areas:

1. In terms of the legislature, the Lao National Assembly has adopted an amended Constitution, and the law on development and protection of women's right. This law has been enacted with a view to guaranteeing and

improving women's status and role. Also, the Lao PDR pay more attention on the improvement of existing laws to ensure the protection of human rights of the male and women. Further, the Lao Women's Parliamentary Caucus is established with a mandate to empower female parliamentarians, so that they could actively contribute to the drafting of legislation and scrutinizing the work of the government.

As a result of the government's commitment to the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the National Commission for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) were established, whose main mission is to assist the government in formulating policy and strategy to promote the advancement of women. It also serves as a focal point for the government for gender mainstreaming, gender equality and elimination of all forms of discrimination against women.

3. Moreover, we also have set up coordination mechanism between NCAW, LNU and Women's Parliamentary Caucus in mainstreaming gender.

In conformity with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES), the government has adopted the National Strategy for the Advancement of Women, 2006-2010 drafted by LNU, NCAW and the Lao Women's Union. LNU and Lao Women's Union have a role to play in mobilizing full participation of women and gender mainstreaming in the planning and implementation of the strategy.

5. In relation to women and poverty, the Government of Lao PDR has paid attention to the issues of gender equity, the past years and has drawn supportive policies in many areas to reduce the poverty especially for women. As a result, the poverty rate has been declining and the living standard of the Lao people especially the women have been improved.

6. In the past 15 years, the Education sector has developed both in quantitative and qualitative terms. To further achieve gender equality in education sector, the government has amended law on the Education on July, 2007 in which many articles of this law has guaranteed equal access to education for both men and women. Also the government has adopted the Education sector development framework (2009-2015) to ensure mainstreaming gender into education sector.

7. Special efforts have been made in the national health policies, programs and legislation to ensure quality health care and accessible health care services for all, especially women in remote areas. Policy and strategy are in place to reduce maternal and child mortality rate. The coverage of the proportion of births assisted by skilled attendants.

8. The government has put a major effort in developing the economy and a number of achievements have been earned. The economic growth rate has been reached 7.5% annually during 2006-2010 and other economic sector have been developed gradually.

9. The government has appropriate policy and creates enabling

Mr. Chairman,

The LCC PDP reaffirms its strong commitment to continue the implementation of the Platform for Action, the MDGs as well as CEDAW. In this regard, we very much hope that the international community will continue to provide support and assistance to us.

Thank you for your kind attention!

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7. Special efforts have been made in the national health policies, programs and legislation to ensure quality health care and access health care services for all, especially women in remote areas, paying particular attention to reduce maternal and child mortality rate. In January the government of Papua New Guinea has started to provide skilled attendants.

8. The Government has put a major effort in developing the economy and a number of achievements have been emerged, especially GDP growth rate has been reached 7.7% annually during 2008-2010 and other economic sectors have been developed gradually.

9. The government has appropriate policy and creates enabling condition to encourage women to participate in economic activities.

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The L to PDS reaffirms its strong commitment to continue the implementation of the Platform for Action, the MDGs as well as CEDAW. In this endeavor, we very much hope that the international community will continue to provide support and assistance to us.

Thank you for your kind attention!