

Speech by

**H.E. Mrs. Sounthone XAYACHACK, Vice-President of the
National Assembly of the Lao PDR at the 146th Inter-
Parliamentary Union Assembly, 11-15 March 2023, Manama,
Bahrain**

(06 minutes)

Under the theme: “Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance”

- Excellency Mr. President;
- Honorable Speakers, Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for the Lao National Assembly delegation having this opportunity to participate and address in this important event of the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, held in the beautiful city of Manama with its warm hospitality, under the theme: “Promoting peaceful coexistence and inclusive societies: Fighting intolerance”, which is an important topic for promotion stability and security in the region and the world at large.

Our world is currently facing challenges, particularly geopolitical competition, economic and energy crises, earthquakes and natural disasters, as well as the Covid-19 pandemic, which has posed severe impact to the economic development, hampering the efforts in maintaining regional and global peace and security.

I highly value the role of the IPU in attaching a great importance in promoting cooperation and partnership, building mutual trust, unity and promoting peaceful coexistence, which contribute significantly to maintaining peace and security. At present time, as representatives of people, we need to continue to promote partnership and cooperation for development and mutual benefit of people of all nations, to enhance and strengthen parliamentary diplomacy in building confidence, trust and mutual understanding, promote multilateralism that would bring about common benefit and promote a peaceful settlement on the basis of upholding the principles and the obligations under the international laws.

The Lao PDR has continued to pursue its consistent foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship and enhancing cooperation with all nations, and actively contributing its obligations both at the regional and international arena, as well as upholding its political will and commitment to cooperate with the international community in resolving disputes and addressing challenges in the region and the world at large through peaceful means that contribute to peace, security and cooperation for development.

In this regard, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR has strengthened its role based on the rule of law by approving the Constitution and Laws that align with the international principles and the context of the country, including overseeing and monitoring the implementation of the Constitution and Laws, as well as the

implementation of the national socio-economic development plan. Furthermore, we reaffirm our commitment to the ratification of international treaties and conventions that Lao PDR is a part of it.

On behalf of the Lao National Assembly delegation, I would like to urge parliamentarians and members of the IPU to strengthen the promotion of building unity, upholding multilateralism, promoting peaceful settlement through dialogue as the basis of principles and international laws.

Lastly, I would like to extend my best wishes to Your Excellency Mr. President of the Assembly and distinguished representatives participating in this Assembly, good health, happiness, and a great success in your noble tasks, and I wish the 146th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly a great success.

Thank you.