

## Speech by

**Hon. Chanthavong SENAMATMONTRY, Member of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR at the 147<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, 23-27 October 2023, Luanda, Angola (05 minutes)**

*Under the theme: "Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16)"*

- **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 147<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly, held in the beautiful city of Luanda, under the theme: "*Parliamentary action for peace, justice and strong institutions SDG16*" which is an important topic and a key enabler of the entire SDG framework.

Today, our world is facing multiple crises at a level we had never experienced before. Following the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, the major challenges facing developing countries varies from an increasing extreme poverty, external debt, and unjust international financial architecture to extreme natural calamities and geopolitical rivalries, as seen in many parts of the world, especially the current violent hostilities between Israel and Palestine which have resulted in the loss of many lives and properties. I urge all parties concerned to exercise utmost restraint, cease all acts of violence, and jointly resolve the conflict by peaceful means.

Against this backdrop, I highly value the role of the IPU in encouraging and promoting creative solutions to those problems and promotes the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 16 to encourage peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels.

### **Mr. President**

For the Lao PDR, SDGs are the national commitments. In addition to the 17 global SDGs, Lao PDR adopted its own unique SDG 18 - lives safe from unexploded ordnance (UXO)). We have localized the SDGs and integrated them into the national planning framework such as the 5-year National Social-Economic Development Plan, the 2025 Development Strategy and the 2030 Vision. Especially, the 9<sup>th</sup> 5-year National

Social-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) has identified six key outputs, one of which is to enhance the effectiveness of public governance and administration and promote an equal and society strictly in accordance with the rule of law.

In this regard, the National Assembly of the Lao PDR plays an active role in enhancing social and public governance and administration by approving 163 laws that are complying with the context of the country and the international norms and standards. In addition, Lao National Assembly has also strengthened its oversight functions in enforcing the Constitution and laws, the implementation of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, ratification of the international conventions and treaties. The above-mentioned has significantly contributed to maintaining peace, justice and strong institutions for achieving Sustainable Development Goals and promoting prosperity to the livelihoods of people in the region and the world.

However, in order to carry out these goals, Lao PDR will continue to strengthen relevant national institutions by improving the coordination mechanism between the central and the localities to be more unified and faster; develop the state administration system to be tidy, modern, effective, accountable, transparent and convenient; promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

**Mr. President**

On behalf of the Lao National Assembly Delegation, I would like to urge parliamentarians and members of the IPU to strengthen its role in promoting the rule of law, peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development and ensure equal access to justice for all; ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements. I believed that these would be the important foundation to achieve all the goals of sustainable development in 2030 as we wish.

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 147<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly has a great success.

**Thank you for your attention.**