

Speech by
H.E. Mrs. Sounthone XAYACHACK, Vice-President of the
National Assembly of the Lao PDR at the 148th Inter-
Parliamentary Union Assembly, 23-27 March 2024, in Geneva
(06 minutes)

*Under the theme: “Parliamentary Diplomacy: Building Bridges for
Peace and Understanding*

- **Madam President;**
- **Mr. Secretary General;**
- **Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the delegation of the Lao National Assembly, I am deeply honoured to participate in **the 148th General Debate of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**, marking our presence at its headquarters for the first time in over 5 years.

As you know, the current global landscape is experiencing increasingly complex changes which have resulted in unprecedented loss of life and property.] *The Lao PDR strongly condemns all forms of terrorist acts, including the recent mass shooting at Crocus City Hall in Krasnogorsk city, Russian Federation. We extend our deepest condolences to the victims of this tragic event.*

I highly appreciate the role of the IPU in fostering peace, stability, and international security over the years, significantly contributing to the advancement of sustainable peace.

The Lao PDR has consistently upheld **a foreign policy of peace, independence, friendship, and cooperation**. We are actively involved in inter-parliamentary diplomacy and cooperation frameworks, establishing numerous parliamentary mechanisms at sub-regional, regional, and global levels. Particularly noteworthy is that, in the end of 2023, the Lao National Assembly hosted **the First CLV (Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam) Parliamentary Summit**, aimed at promoting peace,

solidarity, comprehensive cooperation toward sustainable development among the three countries.

The year 2024 holds significant importance as the Lao PDR assumes its ASEAN Chairmanship, and the Lao National Assembly takes on its ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Presidency under the theme "**AIPA: The Role of Parliaments in Enhancing Connectivity and Inclusive Growth of ASEAN.**" This theme underscores our commitment to enhancing the role of parliament in promoting the implementation of ASEAN-related work plans and achieving solidarity, inclusiveness, resilience, deepened integration, and connectivity within ASEAN, and beyond. These efforts are directed towards improving the livelihoods of people, narrowing the development gap, and ensuring sustainable development without leaving anyone behind.

Honourable Chairperson,

Looking ahead, I call upon all members of the IPU to intensify the parliamentary role through both bilateral and multilateral cooperation frameworks. Our goal is to facilitate the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts through negotiation, firmly grounded in the adherence to fundamental principles and international laws. This approach is crucial for fostering sustainable peace and ensuring the peaceful co-existence of humanity.

Last but not least, I would like to reaffirm the Lao National Assembly's commitment to work closely with other members of the IPU to advance our cause and reach greater heights. I extend my heartfelt wishes to the Honourable Chair, the Heads of Delegation, and all distinguished participants for good health, happiness, and success in your noble endeavours.

I wish the General Debate of IPU every success.

Thank you