

GENERAL DEBATE STATEMENT

by H.E. Dr. Sounthone Xayachack

Vice President of the National Assembly of the Lao PDR

Mr President,

Mr. Secretary General, Martin Chungong,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao National Assembly delegation, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the warm hospitality and excellent arrangements made by the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye and IPU for this 152nd in Istanbul, the most beautiful city in the world.

We meet at a time of profound global uncertainty, when the international community is facing with serious challenges affecting peace, stability and development. Hence, the international community must continue to seek peaceful and long-lasting resolutions to ongoing conflicts and disputes.

The theme of this Assembly “Nurturing hope, securing peace, and ensuring justice for future generations” is very vital and at the same time it is a good opportunity for the parliaments to exchange views and to take meaningful, coordinated and concrete parliamentary actions.

Excellencies,

For the Lao PDR, a country which had suffered from several decades of the aggressive war, considers the concept of peace, justice and development are inherently interconnected. Lasting peace cannot be achieved in the absence of trust, development, and inclusive justice. We should understand the root cause of the conflicts. In this regard, I would like to share some views as follows:

1. Parliaments must strengthen peace through dialogue and political responsibility. Parliamentary diplomacy always remains an essential channel for building trust, reducing tensions and promoting peaceful settlement of conflicts. We firmly believe that all conflicts should be resolved through peaceful means, in accordance with international laws and the principles of the UN Charter.

The most appropriate solutions are to take urgent actions in

addressing the problems facing us all today. This cannot be done without firmly upholding the principles of the UN Charter and preserving multilateralism. We have to create opportunities for peaceful resolutions and conducive environment for diplomatic negotiations and by doing so we can ensure lasting peace and prosperity.

2. Parliaments must uphold justice through inclusive and accountable governance.

Parliaments must ensure that laws are implemented, resources are managed responsibly and development remains people-centered. Parliaments should encourage their governments to attach a great significance by improving the judicial sector in order to promote effectiveness, transparency, accountability, equity and justice in governance and public administration.

3. Parliaments must act to build a fairer and more sustainable global economy.

For developing countries, global economic conditions directly affect growth and well-being of the people.

We support open, fair and rules-based multilateral trading system. We also underscore the importance of strengthening cooperation among developing countries to address common challenges and promote inclusive and sustainable development.

For the Lao PDR, ensuring justice for future generations also means investing in human resources development, with a particular focus on youth, women education. Strengthening institutions and promoting social harmony remain essential to ensuring a better future for the people.

We reaffirm our commitment to regional and international cooperation, including within ASEAN, and to a multilateral system based on international laws and mutual respect.

Esteemed Parliamentarians,

In closing, allow me to reaffirm that peace, development and justice are mutually reinforcing and should be pursued together. Strong, inclusive and accountable parliaments are essential to advancing these goals.

The Lao PDR stands ready to work closely with all Member Parliaments to promote peace, justice and sustainable development for our peoples and for future generations.

Thank you!

