

Speech by
His Excellency Bounpone BOUTTANAVONG,
Vice-President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR
to the 141st Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly,
on 13 – 17 October 2019 in Belgrade, Serbia

**Theme: “Strengthening International Law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and
the contribution of regional cooperation”**

- **Your Excellency President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,**
- **Honorable Secretary-General of IPU,**
- **Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Delegation of National Assembly of Lao PDR, I am honored for having the opportunity to make a statement at the 141st IPU Assembly under the theme: “Strengthening International Law: Parliamentary roles and mechanisms, and the contribution of regional cooperation”, in the beautiful capital city of Belgrade.

As you all are aware, our world continues to face a number of challenges including political-security issues, economic and trade conflict, social problems, natural disasters, climate change etc. All of which present major threats to peace, stability and cooperation as well as hamper the achievement of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development among the countries worldwide.

Against this backdrop, parliaments play crucial role in contributing and reassuring global and regional peace, stability and prosperity because parliaments are key players in approving legislation that are equitable for all segments in the society; ratifying international treaties and agreements to ensure that their respective Governments honor the rights and duty provided through international law; enhancing public awareness on law enforcement including adherence to international law. Thereby, more efforts should be made to promote parliamentary diplomacy to further strengthen solidarity, enhance understanding

on international cooperation, environmental protection and sustainable development.

Madam President,

Lao PDR reaffirms its aspiration and political objectives to cooperate with international community in addressing current regional and global challenges by peaceful means and contributing to create a conducive environment of peace, cooperation and socio-economic development in order to enhance the well-being of citizens worldwide.

Lao PDR has ratified and implemented numerous international covenants in all aspects including economic, cultural, social and political-security areas. In relation to this, the National Assembly of Lao PDR plays crucial role in adopting laws; deciding on the ratification of international treaties and agreements and encouraging the Government to translate content of ratified international covenants into comprehensive and responsive national legislations. In this connection, Members of the Lao National Assembly oversee closely the implementation of the Constitution and Laws by the Executive and Judiciary branch.

As final point, I would like to call upon fellow IPU parliamentarians to place importance on the strengthening of international law; promoting the respect of international law; encouraging States and relevant stakeholders to adhere to their rights provided by the international law and consider international law as the main instrument for peaceful resolution of conflict between States. Parliaments should strongly support initiatives on regional and international cooperation which will positively contribute to the development, the addressing and handling of challenges, thereby enhancing peace, security and prosperity for our people.

I wish the 141st IPU a great success.

Thank you.