

**Speech by H.E. Sengnouane Sayalath,
Vice President of the National Assembly of Lao PDR
At the 139th IPU Assembly
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Under the theme: “Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change”

- **Your Excellency President of IPU,**
- **Excellency Secretary General of IPU**
- **Distinguished Fellow Parliamentarians, Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change is an important topic on peace and national security, especially for achievements of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 2030.

On behalf of the Lao Delegation, I strongly support the idea that science is vital for the socio and economic development of society, which contributes to shaping a sound policies; improving the welfare of people, building capacity in developing economies and world security along with enhancing international cooperation between nations in a peaceful manner.

Mdme. President,

Lao PDR attaches great importance to the development of science, technology and innovation by adopting the National Strategic Plan on Science and Technology Development for the period 2013-2020 and the Vision 2030 in response to the national development needs for industrialization, modernization concerning green and sustainable development that is environmentally friendly, effectively use of renewable energy, material saving promote labor productivity and value added to products, for a stable and continuous development of the economy towards our continued national efforts to graduate from the Least Developed Country Status in the early 2020s.

To ensure the sustainable development, the government of Lao PDR has mainstreamed the sustainable development goals into the 8th Socio-Economic Development Plan with establishing projects on food security, safety of human beings and engraving basic information on technology into teaching and learning curriculums. Moreover, the government has established policies on promoting research, developing technology and innovation and has allocated a budget to the Scientific Research Fund to build infrastructure and scientists and make use of the research findings into the social economic development.

At the same time, Lao PDR has promoted foreign, regional and international cooperation in relation to scientific, technological and innovative activities through exchange experiences, information on research, researchers, scientists and technological transfer, organizing the fair, exhibitions, attraction of technical assistance and scientific foundation including complies with

requirements in international conventions and agreements to which the Lao PDR is a party.

The Lao National Assembly, as a legislative body, plays a major role in adopting various laws in the area of science and technology to ensure that the work has been developed and managed systematically for instance: Law on Science and Technology, Law on Biological Technology Security, Law on Electronic Transaction, Law on Measurement, Law on Standard and Law on Intellectual Property.

In addition, the National Assembly of Lao PDR also play its role in the oversight of the implementation of laws and policies of government for encouraging researches and the use of science, technology and innovation products as stated in the law.

Mdme. President,

To raise the role of Parliamentary leadership in promoting peace and development in the age of innovation and technological change, we as parliamentarians from around the world, both developed and developing countries should further strengthen our cooperation in promoting scientific research and development, technology and innovation, enhancing public-private-partnership and encourage consistent alignment on harmonizing regulatory legislations and policies action plan related to science and technology to be implemented in perspective member countries.

Countries that are advanced and developed in the areas of science and technology should provide technical assistance to countries that are still developing in order to narrow the development gap and promote competitiveness, members of parliament should disseminate scientific and technological innovation to people and entrepreneurs in their constituencies in order for them to apply such innovation into socio-economic development and improve the livelihoods of peoples, to be alert to cope with potentialities that may arise, to build a resilient community and moving forward together to a community of shared destiny where no one is left behind.

Finally, I would like to extend my best wishes to your Excellency president, Heads of delegation and all distinguished guests good health, happiness and great success in your noble tasks.

Thank you.