



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC TO UNITED NATIONS

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Statement by
H.E. Mr. Bounhang VORACHITH,
Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Mr. President,

For the Lao PDR, the support and assistance of the international community in addressing the above-mentioned challenges are of utmost importance in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. We highly value the assistance from the donor community including grant aid, soft loans and foreign investment, for instance, the assistance of the World Bank in the construction of the NamTheun 2 Hydropower Dam. In terms of Official Development Assistance, the Lao PDR would like to see greater coherence among donors in keeping with the socio-economic development plan of the recipient countries. In addition, grant aid in the social sector is more preferable to loan as the latter would drive the nation into a heavy indebted country. Similarly, loans for economic development should be extended at a concession interest rate with a long-term payback schedule. Besides, maximum benefits for recipient countries should be ensured in the utilization of grant aid in various forms whereas avoiding high spending on international consultancy.

We welcome the recent developed countries' policy, particularly the European Union and G-8, in the area of ODA and debt relief in favor of the poorest countries. Moreover, we are encouraged by a number of initiatives on innovative sources of financing for development which were raised at a separate Meeting on financing for development. Likewise, the United Nations system plays equally vital role in assisting the vulnerable countries to meet their objectives and goals. However, the focus of this support should be placed on development projects corresponding to national development needs and priorities.

Mr. President,

Our High-Level Plenary Meeting is indeed of utmost importance. I do hope that the international community will further intensify their cooperation and deploy all their efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals. However, to develop the nation and eradicate poverty, it requires an environment of durable peace and dynamic international cooperation. In this spirit, the Lao PDR reaffirms its commitment to further cooperate with the international community in the fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and in the promotion of development cooperation.

I thank you, Mr. President.