



PEACE INDEPENDENCE DEMOCRACY UNITY PROSPERITY

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

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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Ponmek DALALOY,  
Minister of Public Health of the Lao PDR**

**at the High-level meeting and comprehensive review of the  
progress achieved in realizing the targets set out in the  
Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS**

**New York, 2 June 2006**

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Mr. President,

With the support of UNAIDS, WHO and other key stakeholders, the Lao PDR has developed a new National Strategy and Action Plan 2006-2010 on HIV/AIDS with the aim of universal access to prevention, care and support as close as possible for all in need. HIV and AIDS are included as a priority in the 6<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan, and Lao PDR is actively engaged in the ASEAN Task Force on AIDS.

The emphasis in our National Strategy and Action Plan on HIV/AIDS is on the promotion of safer sexual behavior, especially for the most vulnerable groups. The integration of STI and HIV prevention services into reproductive health programs, addressing the vulnerability of women, young people and children, and provision of services like voluntary counseling and testing and prevention of mother-to-child-transmission are other key strategies. This includes adequate, accessible, affordable and acceptable supplies of essential HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive health related commodities, comprehensive condom programming, STI diagnostics and drugs.

Last month a second ARV treatment site was opened in Laos in the capital – Vientiane and others will follow. We are confident that with the continued support of external development partners and the UN system, our target of treating 100% of adults and children in need will be reached by 2010.

Coming back to the Secretary General's message on "urgency", yes, we will need renewed and substantial efforts at the global, regional and at the country level. We are happy that the Lao PDR is still a low prevalence country and we think that our efforts to date have been at least partially responsible for that low prevalence. Much has been achieved in the last 5 years, but a lot has still to be done! A country like the Lao PDR will need long-term increased commitment by external development partners to support its response financially, and to strengthen its capacity to implement. In this respect, the support by the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the much-needed complementary role of the UN system is highly appreciated.

We will also continue to work with all our partners in the Greater Mekong Sub-Region and ASEAN to halt the spread of the epidemic.

We know that we have a long way to go, but with the re-energized assistance and cooperation from the UN system and the international community, we are determined and will do our utmost to reach the global and our national targets by 2010.

With this conviction let us wish this meeting every success,

Thank you