



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

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**Statement by**

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of the Lao PDR

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*(Please check against delivery)*

**Mr. Chairman,**

On behalf of the Lao Government, it is my great honor to attend the Fifty Second Session of the Commission on Population and Development. In our collective progress towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, the pathway to success is through human development. The ICPD Programme of Action (PoA) emphasises investing in the well-being of all segments of the population as an imperative for equitable and sustainable development.

The overall development policy of our country is demonstrated in the vision 2030, strategy 2025 and 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) which consist of three main pillars: sustained economic growth, social development and environmental protection. The social development pillar gives priority to human development. The Lao Government attaches importance to the implementation of global development agendas. To this end, the relevant goals and targets of global development agenda such as SDGs, ICPD have been mainstreamed into the national development plan.

To ensure the effective implementation of ICDP PoA, the Lao PDR has integrated of ICPD across planning mechanisms such as the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP as well as for the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The implementation of ICDP PoA has recorded important achievements, among others, as follows:

1. Improved health of women and youth, availability of age and sex disaggregated data, reproductive health and rights of people, in particular women and adolescents which have an exponential impact on the overall well-being of society.
2. The implementation of MDG1 and ICPD PoA also contributed to poverty reduction by half from 46% in 1992 to 23% in 2015 and is expected to further reduce in 2018.
3. Continue to improve household welfare.
4. Number of midwives and trained health personnel has increased significantly which contributed to the decline in Maternal Mortality Ratio from 1,100 per 100,000 live births in 1990 to 206 in 2015.
5. Continue to improve access to voluntary family planning.

Despite the above mentioned achievements and the fact that the Lao PDR is being an LDC and LLDC, we still face various challenges such as high adolescent pregnancy rates, unmet need of 74% for contraceptives amongst unmarried young women, high rates of secondary school drop outs.