

**UPR WORKING GROUP – EIGHTH SESSION  
(MAY 3-14, 2010)**

**UPR of LAO PEOPLE’S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC – INTERACTIVE  
DIALOGUE**

**May 4, 2010; 1500-1800 hrs**

**INTERVENTION BY INDIA**

Mr. President,

India warmly welcomes the delegation of Lao People’s Democratic Republic led by H.E. Mr Phong Savath Boupha, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, and thanks the delegation for its presentation and the National Report.

Mr President,

2. Given its geographic constraints, historical legacy and multi-ethnic composition, Lao PDR has achieved impressive progress in its development efforts, especially in recent times. It has been able to effect a sharp reduction in poverty and a substantive expansion in public health coverage. At the same time, it has been able to increase the participation of women in decision-making institutions and is in the process of reforming its education system. The country is party to a number of core international human rights instruments and is moving towards harmonising its domestic legislations with the various obligations that it has under the international human rights instruments to which it is a party. Lao PDR has been commended by CERD and CEDAW for its measures to combat trafficking in persons. We take note of its recent legislations aimed at encouraging the formation of civil society groups, liberalising media controls and expanding access to information for its people.

3. Mr President, we take positive note of the priorities and commitments that have been mentioned in the national report. These include, *inter alia*, continuing efforts to reform its legal system, improvement in quality of – and

access to – health-care and education for all ethnic groups, and human rights awareness programmes. We would request the delegation to strengthen the role of women in local development planning, and establish a Paris Principles’ compliant National Human Rights Institution at the earliest. Lastly, we would request Lao PDR delegation to share its experiences about the success of – and challenges relating to – the 2006 Law on Handling Petitions that is meant to facilitate the administration of justice for all ethnic groups.

Thank you, Mr President.

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