Speech of H.E. Mme Bouachanh SYHANATH, 
Vice-Minister/Vice-President of the Lao Women’s Union

At the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review 
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action

27 November 2019, United Nations Conference Centre, Bangkok

Excellency Madame Chairperson, 
Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me to join other delegations in congratulating Excellency 
for your appointment to be chairperson for the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference 
on the Beijing+25 Review Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing 
Declaration and Platform for Action.

It is a great honor for me to represent the Lao Government at the Asia-Pacific 
Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review.

Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,

The Lao Government attaches great importance to the implementation of the Beijing 
Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable 
development. We acknowledge that gender equality and the empowerment of 
women and girls are integral part to achieving those goals.

Let’s me share with you the top outstanding progress Lao PDR has made in the 
implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BPfA) over the past 
five years includes (1) the formulation of legal frameworks that provide an 
overarching architecture for the effective implementation of advancement of 
women’s rights. This includes the Law on Development and Protection of Women, 
Law on Lao Women’s Union, Law on Preventing and Combatting Violence Against 
Women and Children, Law on State Budget, Law on Statistic and the Law on Gender 
Equality. The progress towards legal frameworks is remarkable in the last couple of 
years, and this is critical as it forms a basis for many activities in promoting the 
advancement of women’s rights to take place; (2) the improved health care and 
service to serve the medical needs for women, resulting in positive cross-cutting 
impact across all development sectors. The Lao Government has committed to 
further strengthening the quality of healthcare and services, aiming for universal
health coverage that all people, males and females, can access the health services while being protected from being pushed into poverty; (3) the better education attainment by female and the increasing of the political participation and representation by women. In the last National Assembly, 41 women were elected, accounting for 27.5 percent, an increase of 2.5 percent compared to the previous Legislature. Women also accounted for 31.75 percent in the Provincial Assembly.

**Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,**

Despite the achievements, there are also some challenges such as the sex disaggregated data, the shortage of human and financial resources for implementing Beijing Planform for action, and the low level of understanding and acceptance of gender equality in the family, among the general public, especially those residing in rural and mountainous areas. The evolving forms of Gender Based Violence also make it determined to implement Beijing Planform for action in the country.

**Madame Chairperson, Distinguished Delegates,**

The review concludes that the top priorities for accelerating the progress for women and girls in Lao PDR for the next five years include (1) further strengthening the political participation and representation of women as well as the implementation of the approved laws related to gender equality; (2) strengthening women’s entrepreneurship and women’s enterprise; (3) increasing of access to healthcare for mothers and child; (4) ensuring quality education including vocational training programmes and (5) improving unpaid care and domestic work. Apart from these, Gender Based Violence and sex disaggregated data will also continue to be addressed.

In this regard, we call for enhanced partnership from the development partners, private sectors and international community to take part in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to accelerate the progress for women and girls “Leaving no one behind”.

I wish the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing+25 Review a great success.

Thank you