

Statement by H.E.Mr. Latsamy KEOMANY,  
Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR  
to the 114th session of the council of IOM  
(agenda item 10 – General Debate)  
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Thank you, Mme. Chairperson,

At the outset, the Lao PDR congratulates IOM, especially Director General for having this timely 114th Session of IOM Council convened, today, as our world is facing multiple challenges related to migration resulted from COVID-19 pandemic, economic disparity, climate change, geopolitical tensions, among others. My delegation commends Director General for her comprehensive report and is heartened to hear that the gender and youth mainstreaming, community driven and private sector involvement in migration solutions and governance. The Lao PDR also aligns itself with the APG's statement.

Mme. Chairperson,

As the Lao PDR is a landlocked country surrounded by big economies coupled with being a Least Developed Country, therefore, it faces with a large number of inbound and outbound migrants. Against this backdrop, the Lao PDR has adopted several policies, laws and regulations for better migration governance. Moreover, the government has strengthened the cooperation bilaterally and multilaterally with its neighboring countries and international organizations, including under ASEAN and UN frameworks and mechanisms to tackle both regular and irregular migration related issues such as poverty, climate change, digital transformation, human trafficking, transnational crimes, among others. These supports and cooperation have contributed a lot in the realization of ASEAN Community building 2025 and UN SDGs 2030.

The Lao PDR joined IOM in 2018 and since then, the bilateral cooperation and partnership between the Lao PDR and IOM have been expanding from strength to strength. The significant milestone achievements include the signing of the Lao PDR-IOM Cooperation Agreement 2022-2026 which is well in-line with the needs and priorities of the Lao PDR's Socio-Economic Development Plan 2021-2025, the country's 2030 Vision, the Labor and Social Welfare Sectoral Development Plan as well as the implementation of the country's economic recovery strategy from the impacts of Covid-19.

Mme. Chairperson,

As the Lao PDR will assume the ASEAN Chairmanship, next year, 2024, we look forward to working closely with IOM and other members:

1. To move forward the regular migration pathways and skills development agendas within ASEAN, especially IOM's support to the Lao PDR to draft an ASEAN Mutual Skills Recognition Declaration; and
2. To develop and implement the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration or GCM to ensure that the rights and dignity of migrants are protected.

To conclude, I would like to reiterate the Lao PDR's commitment to work closely with IOM and other members to advance our joint endeavors in labor migration governance and management to a greater height. We take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to IOM and both bilateral and multilateral donors for their invaluable supports and cooperation extended to ASEAN, especially to Laos.

I thank you.