



**Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic
to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations
at Geneva**

Statement

By H.E.Mr.Somphet KHOUSAKOUN

Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR

at

The 7th session of the Human Rights Council (3-28 March 2008)

Item 4

General debate

Geneva, 13 March 2008

Statement by H.E.Mr. Somphet KHOUSAKOUN
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR
at the Seventh session of the Human Rights Council

General debate Item 4

Geneva ,13 March 2008

- Mr. President ,
- Madam High Commissioner ,
- Excellencies ,
- Ladies and Gentlemen ,

It is indeed a great honour for me to express the view of my Government on the situation in Myanmar.

The Lao PDR and Myanmar are immediate neighbors .The situation in Myanmar is complex, sensitive and fragile. Laos believes that the stability and unity of Myanmar are vital for peace and security of South East Asia and other regions . Guided by this aspiration, and as a member of ASEAN, the Lao Government always upholds the ASEAN fundamental principles of non- interference into internal affairs of other countries and peaceful settlement of disputes in addressing Myanmar issue.

In our view , the said issue should be dealt with in accordance with the specific characteristics of the country . We therefore extend our consistent support to Myanmar national reconciliation and the Seven Step Road Map process . We are also of the view that Myanmar democratization should be a gradual and peaceful process , requiring

encouragement and concrete incentive from the international community. We always believe that a constructive approach to Myanmar issue will be more productive. On the contrary, any form of sanction to and isolation of Myanmar could further deteriorate the situation and derail the national reconciliation process .

- Mr. President,

The Lao Government also supports the tireless efforts of H.E.Mr.Ibrahim Gambari, the UN Secretary General's Special Advisor , which have contributed to generate some constructive inter-actions and positive developments in Myanmar .

We are confident that the recent announcements of the Government of Myanmar concerning the holding of a National Referendum to seek approval of the State Constitution in May 2008 and the holding of general election in 2010, will pave the way leading to national reconciliation in the near future .

The Lao PDR stands ready to contribute within its own capacity in realizing the constructive efforts for the interests of Myanmar people.

I thank you , Mr. President .