Mr. Chairman,

It is my great pleasure to speak at this important event on behalf of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.

It is a belief that parity between women and men is not only a due responsibility to the promotion and protection of women’s right, but it is also a pathway to national prosperity and success. In this connection, women’s empowerment will enhance national productivity and poverty eradication.

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao Government attaches great importance to the work and contribution of UN-Women to the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women, as well as the protection of the right of women and girls. My delegation, therefore, would like to express our sincere appreciation to UN-Women and development partners for their hard work to fulfill their supports and cooperation.

In light of this importance, in order to reiterate our commitment to the work of UN-Women, the Lao Government reaffirms its commitment to take appropriate measures in continuing to work together with the UN-Women and International community to promote gender equality, protect the rights of women and girls, and prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls. In this regards, the Lao Government would like to make a contribution of $1,000 for this year 2014. Even though, our contribution is relatively small and symbolic in nature, it does show our political commitment and support for the UN-Women's work.

I thank you, Mr Chairman.