Statement
by
Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa,
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic to the United Nations, Charge d’Affaires a.i. to pay tribute to H.E Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, on behalf of the Asia Pacific Group

12th December 2016
Mr. President,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Member States of the Asia-Pacific Group on the special occasion to pay tribute and bid farewell to His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon and an oath of office by H.E Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General-designate of the United Nations.

2. The Group is pleased to note that during his tenure as Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Ban has fulfilled the responsibilities entrusted to him. His two terms in office is a self-testimony of his capability, dedication and success in administering the only universal organization cruising through the waves of a more increasing challenging world. He leaves behind a legacy that sets the path for us to follow towards making the world a better and more peaceful place to live. He has shown to us a strong commitment and a strong will that no challenge or no obstruction is irremovable. We applaud Mr. Ban for his commitment, dedicated and steadfast stance towards that end.

3. Mr. Ban Ki-moon will complete his term of office as the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the end of this year, Mr. Secretary-General, during your 10-year tenure, you have made numerous achievements which we cannot list all because they are indeed many. But we would just like to highlight some of the very important ones that will help pave the way for the international community to work hand in hand in the years ahead in addressing the most pressing issues of our time such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which has promised that by 2030 no one is left behind, the Paris Agreement on Climate Change which has just entered into force on 4 November, the advancement of human rights including in the areas of women's empowerment and gender equality and the reforms of United Nation.
4. The Group wishes to place on record our appreciation to Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his long, illustrious service to the United Nations and, in particular, for his service as the Secretary-General of the Organization. We would like to take this opportunity, to express our sincerest thanks and deepest appreciation to Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his leadership and stewardship in leading the United Nations and his tireless efforts to promote peace and development. We wish you, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, all the very best in your future undertaking.

5. The Group also would like to express our congratulations to Mr. António Guterres on his appointment as the next Secretary-General of the United Nations, Mr. Guterres brought to the position of Secretary-General a wealth of knowledge, professional skills, vision, experience and wisdom as a veteran political leader. We Wish the Secretary-General-designate success in fulfilling his central role at an exceedingly critical time in United Nations history. Mr. António Guterres is now entrusted with all our hopes, aspiration and dreams for a peaceful and prosperous world. It is an honorable and heavy responsibility that he takes on as Secretary-General of the United Nations. The Member States of the Asia-Pacific Group will extend our full support and cooperation to him as he leads the United Nations in the next 5 years.

I thank you Mr. President.