



21st Session of the Working Group for UPR
Interactive Dialogue on Report of
Lao People's Democratic Republic

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Mr. President,

Serbia welcomes the progress of the Lao People's Democratic Republic with respect to the protection of human rights since the last UPR review.

We commend Lao Government on their commitment to the right to health of its citizens, which is demonstrated in the increase of access to health services and the achievement of the nation MDG targets for under five mortality rate. We also applaud the growing number of women's participation in government and local administration at all levels.

We welcome the Lao People's Democratic Republic had adopted several laws to prevent and combat trafficking and assist victims, and that the Government adopted a national action plan to combat human trafficking. We encourage them to proceed to the adoption on the law on fighting trafficking.

With regard to further developments in the promotion and protection of human rights, Serbia would offer the following recommendations to Lao PDR:

- 1) Step up efforts to prevent and combat modern forms of slavery and human trafficking with special attention to the investigation and prosecution of all cases of sale and trafficking of children, including providing protection of child victims;
- 2) Define 'torture' in its Criminal Procedure Code in accordance with the CAT standards.

We wish Lao People's Democratic Republic successful UPR review.