

**Statement by Mr. Sitsangkhom SISAKETH, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR**

**At the 37th Session of UPR Working Group**

**Geneva, 18-29 January 2021**

Review of Australia: 20 January 2021

Madam President,

Laos warmly welcomes the distinguished delegation of Australia to the UPR session and thanks for the presentation of its National Report on human rights.

Laos would like to commend Australia for its commitment in promoting and protecting human rights, including the rights of indigenous people especially the improvement in health, education, birth registration and cultural heritage rights.

We also commend the active role of Australia in the international and regional cooperation to combat human trafficking and slavery.

In this connection, Laos wishes to recommend as follows:

1. Continue its efforts to reduce violence against women and children, and the disparity in economic, health and education outcome between indigenous and non-indigenous Australians; and
2. Further enhance its cooperation with ASEAN through ASEAN-Australia Human Rights Trafficking framework in the fight against human trafficking and slavery in the region.

We wish Australia all the success in its review.

I thank you, Madam President.