

Government of Laos and Policies Supporting Gender Equality and Ethnic Diversity

GOL is signatory of many United Nations Human Rights Treaties and Declarations, and ASEAN Declarations:

| | Name of UN Treaty or Declaration | Action by GOL | Timeline |
|--------------------|--|--|--------------|
| 1 | Convention on the Political Rights of Women | Acceded | 1969 |
| 2 | International Convention to End All Forms of Racial Discrimination | Acceded | 1974 |
| 3 | Convention to End All Forms of Discrimination Against Women | Signed Ratified | 1980 1981 |
| 4 | Convention on the Rights of the Child | Acceded | 1991 |
| 5 | International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights | Signed Ratified | 2000 2007 |
| 6 | International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights | Signed Ratified | 2000 2009 |
| 7 | United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) | Voted in favour at UN General Assembly | 2007 |
| 8 | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | Signed Ratified | 2008 2009 |
| 9 | Protection of All Persons Against Enforced Disappearance | Signed | 2008 |
| 10 | Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Punishment | Signed Ratified | 2010 2012 |
| ASEAN Declarations | | | |
| 1 | Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region | Co-Signatory | 2004 |
| 2 | ASEAN Human Rights Declaration | Co-Signatory | 2012 |
| 3 | Vientiane Declaration on Enhancing Gender Perspective and ASEAN Women's Partnership for Environmental Sustainability | Co-Signatory | 2012 |
| 4 | Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women And Elimination Of Violence Against Children in ASEAN | Co-Signatory | 2013 |
| 5 | ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection | Co-Signatory | 2013 |

For UN Treaties, see: <http://treaties.un.org/Home.aspx?lang=en>

Constitution of the Lao PDR (1991 and 2003):

Equality for all citizens in the social, political, economic and legal spheres in a multi-ethnic society. Article Eight "All ethnic groups have the right to preserve their own traditions and culture, and those of the Nation. Discrimination between ethnic groups is forbidden."

Further Legislation:

Law on the Development and Protection of Women, November 2004, mentions equal rights of women to land and other property, and their rights to equal pay for equal work.

Labour Law, December 2006 (amended January 2007), includes statement on non-discrimination: *Work shall ensure that the employer and employees receive mutual benefit, without discrimination as to race, nationality, gender, age, religion, beliefs, and socio-economic status;*

Decree on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication, 2012 (PM/201) mentions gender equality as a development criterion.

Establishment of Various Organisations (not exhaustive list):

- National, Ministerial, Provincial and District Committees for the Advancement of Women;
- Lao Women's Union;
- Women Parliamentarians Caucus;
- Lao Front for National Construction;
- National Assembly Ethnic Affairs Committee;
- (as of 2011) Department of Ethnic and Religious Affairs under MoHA.

Various Policy Documents

Five Year National Social Economic Development Plan (NSEDPP)(2011 – 2015)

gender equality: health, education, vocational training, labour markets and in the political sphere (civil service and National Assembly);

National Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plan (2011 – 2015) (NRDPEP): all ethnic groups in the country must be included in rural development and poverty eradication efforts;

National Strategy for the Advancement of Women (NSAW) (2011 – 2015): create awareness on gender equality, promote women's rights, encourage women in leadership roles, implement

CEDAW:

Different Ministries have their "SAWs" based on their own Sub-CAWs and programmes of work.