Statement by
H.E. Prof. Bounkong SYHAVONG, Minister for Health at the Seventy-Third World Health Assembly, Geneva, 18 to 19 May 2020

Excellencies

• The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the traditional ways of living, travelling and working and it will stay with us for some time if not forever.

• Global challenges need a global response. We acknowledge and thank Dr. Tedros for his key role for bringing global solidarity to address this crisis.

• Low and Middle- income countries are the most vulnerable and need special attention and assistance.

• At this time, the WHO needs support more than ever to effectively carry out its critical duties on global coordination and assistance around the world.

• Madam President, my country has very limited resources and capacity to deal with a large number of infected people. We, therefore, took early preventive measures to contain infection as much as possible.

• We profoundly thank the valuable assistance from our friendly countries and international organizations, who helped us to limit the number of infected cases to 19, with no deaths.

• We have taken this precious time with few cases to strengthen our hospital capacity including infection prevention and control; and to build community mechanisms to detect cases early.

• I also firmly hope that the assistance will be continued so that we can meet the SDGs and no one will be left behind.

• In closing, I wish that our deliberation today will focus on health-related issues, particularly on fighting COVID-19 and maintaining essential health services. We confirm our full support and cooperation for the success of the meeting.

Thank you.