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## Statement by

Mr. Maythong Thammavongsa, Minister Counsellor, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the United Nations

Charge d'Affaires a.i

at the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board of the UNDP/UNFPA and UNOPS

UNDP Country Programmes and Related Matters

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(Please check against delivery)

## Mr. President,

I wish to begin by thanking Mr. Haoliang Xu, Director of Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific for his overview on the draft country programmes, and to commend the tireless efforts of the entire UNDP team both in New York and in Vientiane in drafting Lao Country Programme Document (CPD) for the period of 2017-2021. The drafting processing has been broad and inclusive that involved relevant agencies from the Lao Government and the development partners.

The new country programme document is based on priority of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Social Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2016-2020, including the plan to graduate from least-developed-country status in the near future. It also aligns with the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPF) 2017-2021which has just been signed by the Lao Government and UN Residence Coordinator in Vientiane yesterday, it also aligns with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The new cycle has been designed to support the Government to achieve the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including a localized Goal 18 to reduce the impacts of unexploded ordnance (UXO) which has just been launched yesterday in Vientiane with the presence of H.E Mr. Ban Ki-moon who is attending the ASEAN-UN Summit in my country. The country programme will also help the country meet its national objectives under the Vienna Programme of Action for Land-locked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014-2024 and the Istanbul Programme of Action for Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011-2020.

## Mr. President,

My delegation acknowledges the importance of resource mobilization to implement the new country programme and would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciations to UNDP and the international community for their technical assistance and financial support to the previous country programmes and hoping that such assistance and support will be continued in this new cycle.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate that the Lao Government highly values its partnership with the UNDP and wishes to continue to work together towards enhancing Government's

ownership and leadership through the efficient and effective implementation of this county programme. We hope that the Executive Board will adopt our draft country programme.

I thank you, Mr. President.