



# **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

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## **Statement by**

**H.E. Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of  
Foreign Affairs of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**at the High-level Forum of Heads of State and Government of Landlocked  
Developing Countries**

**New York, 28 September 2015**

*( Please check against delivery )*

Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao PDR, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you and other members of Bureau, on your election as President of the High-level Forum of Head of States and Government of Landlocked Developing Countries. May I also express my profound thanks to the Government of the Republic of Zambia as Chair of LLDCs for its tireless effort in leading the work of the Group of LLDCs.

Mr. President,

Ten-year review of the implementation of the APoA reveals that although considerable progress in addressing the special needs of LLDCs has been made, some objectives of the six priorities have not been fully realized and the LLDCs continue to face challenges and not be able to integrate themselves into regional and global trading system. As a results, two third of LLDCs are falling short in achieving various social targets including the MDGs.

My delegation strongly believes that the VPoA provides a significant opportunity for the international community to renew and strengthen partnerships between LLDCs, their transit neighbours and their development partners in the implementation of the six priorities of VPoA, in addressing the special development needs of LLDCs and poverty eradication in a long-run. In addition, the High – level Meeting on the follow-up to the Second UN Conference on LLDCs held in Livingstone, Zambia has further underlined the implementation of six priorities of VPoA. In this regard, my delegation would like to stress on the UN Secretary General's report on the implementation of VPoA that reiterates the need for the commitment of the international community to supporting 32 LLDCs in dealing with their development challenges.

Mr. President,

The Lao Government has developed several programs and policies for infrastructure development with a view to ensuring efficient transport system creating favorable conditions for sustainable growth and poverty reduction as well as regional integration by providing greater access for the people to public services and global markets while integrating the national economy with the region. To this end, the Government has increased investment on infrastructure development, particularly roads and railways linking the country with the Asian Highway and Trans-Asian Railway networks through the implementation of various bilateral and multilateral agreements, including sub-regional road networks and economic corridors in order to facilitate trade, investment and tourism in the region.

For this, I wish to thank our neighbouring countries, namely Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia and Myanmar as transit countries for their support and assistance on the development cooperation of such infrastructures that links Laos with their countries and the wider region. I also wish to thank China for its efforts to develop a rail road through Laos to Thailand as part of the Singapore- Kunming Rail Link Project.

Mr. President,

My delegation strongly supports the substances stipulated in the Outcome Document of the Post-2015 Development Agenda adopted by the world leaders last week, which further emphasizes the development challenges faced by LLDCs. It is also vital to note that there is a need to improve transit transport infrastructure and increase their competitiveness, namely development of information and communication technology, diversification of their export and ability in order to

join global and regional value chains. Likewise, there is also a need to provide preferential access for LLDCs exports, create new market access opportunities and doubling investments into infrastructure development as well as fully implementation of official development assistance for LLDCs.

Mr. President,

Lastly, the Lao Government is committed and determined to realizing the VPoA. Likewise, we also call upon all stakeholders, including transit countries, UN agencies, development partners to support the implementation of the VPoA by redoubling political will to fulfill their respective obligations and commitments to support LLDCs.

I thank you.