



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by H.E Mr. Sommad Pholsena

**Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Lao PDR
At the Signature Ceremony for the Paris Agreement,**

22 April 2016, New York

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Co-Chairman,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my great honor and pleasure to join all of you at this historical Paris Agreement Signature Ceremony, the first step toward realization of COP21 accords. Effective implementation of the Paris Agreement requires strong commitment and political will of all Parties, a win-win approach, sufficient budget, qualified human resources and efficient coordination. Without successful realization of the Paris Agreement, we will not be able to reach sustainable development. Yes, we're all here for the sake of our children, grandchildren and great-grand children, in a joint endeavor to limit the increase of global temperature and secure environment for their future.

The Lao PDR is a fervent advocate of the global climate change agenda. We fully recognize the challenges posed by climate change as a critical development issue. We are implementing our Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC) and have mainstreamed Climate Change and Disaster Risks Reduction, along with the Sustainable Development Goals, in our Social Economic Development Plan for the years to come. Therefore, we look forward to the successful implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Thank you very much