



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement

By

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At the Annual Ministerial Meeting on Least Developed Countries
(LDCs)

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(Please check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

1. I would like to begin by commending you on your election as chair of Annual Ministerial Meeting on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of the Republic of Bangladesh as Chair of LDCs for its effort in leading the work of our Group. I assure you of our full support in the discharge of your duty.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Recognized by the United Nations in 1971 the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including my own country, continue to face various challenges such as poverty, highly vulnerable to external shocks and adverse impact of climate change. Therefore, the development of LDCs must be given a special priority as their needs and challenges would hardly be overcome by themselves without support and cooperation from the international community. For this reason, the programs of action for the LDCs, including the Istanbul Program of Action (IPoA) were adopted by the United Nations to support the development of these countries to help them address such challenges and eventually graduate from the status of underdevelopment. For this, my delegation believes that the declaration adopted at the Comprehensive High-level Midterm review on the implementation of IPoA in June 2016 in Turkey is important as it reflects the strong political will and commitments of the international community to continue to implement the IPoA which can serve as a catalyzing action within the new context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and further strengthen the global partnership to help LDCs improve their productive capacity, and access to market, finance, technologies, know-how in the most favourable terms and flexible treatment in undertaking international commitments and obligations.

Mr. Chairman,

3. My delegation is of the view that, it is important to build links in implementing the eight priority areas of IPoA and global development

frameworks in order to enable them to effectively incorporate the global agendas into their national social and economic development plans with a view to accelerate progress and support their efforts to graduate from LDCs status. In this regard, we need to make greater efforts to mobilize resources to support the implementation of the VPoA through strengthened partnerships, particularly, the joint actions between LDCs and its development partners, including the UN agencies, international organizations, private sector and other stakeholders as provided for in the IPoA 2011–2020. Furthermore, ODA is crucial for the development of LDCs. Thus, we hope that commitment to provide 0.20 per cent of GNI as ODA to LDCs will be realized soon.

Mr. Chairman,

4. Although, our country did not reach the threshold during the last Committee for Development Policy (CDP) review in March 2015, the Lao Government is strongly committed to the effective implementation of IPoA for the LDCs by incorporating the actions under the IPOA into the current 8th Five-Year Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016 – 2020 which focuses on the three criteria for LDC graduation and three dimensions of sustainable development.

Mr. Chairman,

5. Let me conclude by reaffirming the Lao PDR's strong determination to effectively implement the IPoA for the next five years, and stressing that it would be impossible for individual LDCs to achieve our national development goals, internationally agreed development agenda without enhanced and predictable support from the international community. Therefore, I call upon the development partners to mainstream LDC related activities into their policies and work plans that directly respond to the national development needs of LDCs.

I thank you.