



# *Lao People's Democratic Republic*

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**Statement by  
His Excellency Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith,  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR,  
at the Thirteenth Foreign Ministerial Meeting  
of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries  
25 September 2014, New York**

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Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Lao delegation, I congratulate you on your assumption of Chairmanship of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries (LLDCs). I assure you of our Delegation's full support and cooperation in the discharge of your mandate.

I would like to welcome South Sudan as the newest member of our Group.

I thank H.E Ambassador Gyan Chandra Acharya, Under-Secretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States for his insightful remarks.

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) is gratified to see some progress made in the implementation of Almaty Programme of Action (APoA) in the past ten years which has contributed substantially to cater to the special needs of LLDCs. This is evidenced from the achievements made in various fields, particularly, in transport infrastructure development and trade facilitation. In this connection, I wish to thank transit countries, development partners and others for their valuable support and assistance in the implementation of the activities of APoA.

Nevertheless, despite some progress achieved in its socio-economic development, there remains much more to be done as LLDCs' unique challenges and special needs are enormous in nature

which cannot be addressed solely by themselves. In fact, the LLDCs, as a group, continue to be at the margins of the global economy and remain extremely vulnerable to external shocks and multi-interlinked challenges faced by the international community such as global economic and financial crises and impacts of environmental disaster and climate change. Therefore, to overcome these obstacles, I call on the international community to honor its commitment and intensify its support and assistance to the LLDCs in order for them to overcome their specific development challenges.

As we are approaching the Second UN Conference on LLDCs to be held in Vienna on 3-5 November 2014, it is the time for international community to demonstrate once again the spirit of cooperation and renew its commitment to support LLDCs through active and constructive participation and engagement in the preparation and organization of this Conference. This conference is important as it will determine the fate of LLDCs in the next decade.

Mr. Chairman,

At the country level, the Lao PDR has made a steady progress in implementing APoA in a number of areas such as development of road network with neighboring countries, development of East-West and North-South corridors that link countries in the sub-region and region as a whole. This would contribute to the realization of various Asian high-ways and the ultimate goal of regional connectivity. In other areas, such as trade and trade facilitation, we are on track in meeting APoA objective. We are now intensifying our effort to work toward ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) with dialogue partner, we have realized our goal to be WTO member after more than a decade of negotiation. Having said that the Lao PDR, as a landlocked nation, remains constrained by natural landlockedness, which prevents its ability to reap many opportunities. Therefore, it required continued support from all partners.

To conclude, I wish to reiterate our strong commitment to cooperating with all of you in our efforts to realize the goals and objectives of LLDCs. I also wish to thank the transit countries, development partners and others for the valuable support and assistance rendered to the LLDCs and I am confident that they will continue to do so to support the implementation of the new PoA.

I thank you all for your kind attention.