



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 Annual Ministerial Meeting
of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
26 September 2014, New York**

Mr. Chairman,
Ambassador Acharya, Under-Secretary General and High Representative

On behalf of the Lao Delegation, I wish to commend you on strong leadership you have demonstrated of the Group of the Least Developed Countries. I assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your important duty.

Let me also thank OHRLLS for its continued support to the cause of LDCs, especially in the implementation of Istanbul Programme of Action (IPOA).

Mr. Chairman,

The time for the realization of the IPOA by 2020 is fast approaching. Given the current global geopolitical and economic landscape, the overall picture that the LDCs will be able to fully implement the IPOA seems to be less optimistic. This is so as there remain challenges and obstacles along the development path within the LDCs themselves and those caused by external factors such as violent conflicts in various parts of the world, the uncertainty in the recovery of the global economic growth, the effects of the climate change and natural calamities, the

outbreak of the diseases and so on. Such challenges have no doubt compromised or even hindered the progress of the development of the LDCs. Furthermore, some of the LDCs are compounded by the enormity of the unique constraints arising from their geographical location that is the landlockness.

Thus, given the huge challenges and the limited domestic resources, LDCs will not be able to overcome the above challenges without support and assistance from the international community. For this reason, I call on the international community, especially development partners to honour their commitment on ODA in particular to LDCs, so they can achieve objectives of IPOA.

Mr. Chairman,

The Lao Government attaches great importance to the implementation of the IPoA by setting the ambitious goal to graduate from LDC status by 2020 which is indeed a daunting task for us. To attain such lofty goal, the IPoA has been mainstreamed into the National Annual Development Plan and the Seventh Five-Year National Economic-Social Development Plan (2006-2015) and will be definitely incorporated into the Eighth Five-Year National Economic-Social Development Plan (2016-2020), which is being formulated.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, my delegation would like to reaffirm our strong commitment to the implementation of the IPoA and wish our deliberation a fruitful conclusion.

I thank you for your kind attention.