



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

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Republic**

**At the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
General Debate,**

**Under the theme “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness
and equality”**

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(Please check against delivery)

Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. My delegation wishes to align itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of the Group of 77 and China, ASEAN, LDCs and LLDCs.

Madame President,

2. This HLPF is the run – up to the SDGs Summit, which will be held in September this year to follow up and review progress made in the implementation of sustainable development commitments as stipulated in the 2030 Agenda. To ensure that no one is left behind, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should take into account development priorities of developing countries, in particular, those of the countries in special situations such as LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

3. The Lao PDR is committed and determined to achieving its national development objectives with particular focus on addressing poverty. Ambitious targets have been set to attain SDGs by 2030 and to graduate from the LDC status. In this regard, the Lao Government has been working closely with the UN Country Team and other relevant stakeholders in localizing the SDGs. On its part, the Lao Government has set up the National Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister, the National SDGs Secretariat and SDGs focal points in the line ministries and agencies. Following the presentation of the VNR in 2018, following progress, among others, has been made in the implementation of SDGs in our country:

- **On the SDGs localization**, we have incorporated over 60% of SDGs indicators in the current national development plan and are in the process of identifying key SDG indicators to be mainstreamed into the next Five Year National Social-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) 2021 – 2025.
- **On the SDGs awareness raising efforts**, the Lao PDR has come up with its SDG Communications Action Plan and localized communications tools to raise awareness on SDGs to all stakeholders.
- **On the SDGs Stakeholder Engagement**, the Lao PDR, in collaboration with UN agencies, organized SDGs Stakeholders Engagement workshops to sensitize the participants on the importance of stakeholder engagement to the implementation of SDGs.
- **On the SDG policy coherence and coordination**, the quarterly meetings among the SDG focal points have been held to serve as a platform to share best practices and challenges encountered during the implementation of SDGs.
- **On the SDGs data base**, we have performed data mapping on all localized SDGs indicators so that in moving forward we can allocate

resources effectively to support data mining processes to achieve the highest data quality.

4. In the meantime, there are also some challenges that we need to address, especially the shortage of funding to support the implementation of different SDGs related initiatives. To this end, we have been utilizing different approaches such as efforts to augment domestic resource mobilization and the Round Table Meeting to enhance cooperation and mobilize resources from external sources to support the SDGs implementation.

Madame President,

5. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the Lao PDR's strong commitment to eradicate poverty and pursue the path of sustainable development. I wish to express my sincere thanks to development partners, and international organizations for their continued support and assistance that have, to a great extent, contributed to the development of our country.

I thank you.