



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

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“Sustainable Development”

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(Please Check Against Delivery)

Thank you Mr. Chair,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of the State of Palestine, the Philippines, Malawi and Paraguay on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, ASEAN, LDCs and LLDCs respectively.
2. The adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals by the world leaders marked an important milestone for the international community, which reflects our strong commitment to address development needs and eradicate poverty in all its forms. While achieving numerous progress in many areas throughout the first four year cycle, the implementation of SDGs continues to encounter daunting challenges, especially in term of resource mobilization to support countries and people that need it most, to effectively implement all the targets and goals set forth in the 2030 Agenda as well as their national development plans.

Mr. Chair,

3. Allow me to share a few points on progress and challenges of SDG implementation in my country.
4. First, more than 60 % of global SDG indicators, especially those considered relevant to our national development context were adopted and mainstreamed into the current Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2016-2020. The remaining SDG indicators will be further integrated into the next cycle of Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan from 2021 to 2025, to ensure that they are fully integrated taking into account our national development priorities and its specific challenges, in particular the life-threatening impact of UXO. Therefore, the Lao PDR has adopted the national SDG 18 entitled "Lives Safe from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)" to address the remaining challenge.
5. Second, our country has successfully presented our first Voluntary National Review last year, and shared our experiences and lessons learnt with the international community in term of progress and challenges thus far on the SDG localization and implementation.
6. Third, more recently in order to increase awareness among the general public, SDGs advocacy campaign has been conducted through many workshops organized at central and provincial levels with a view to enhancing understanding of the SDGs in all sectors of the society and create synergy towards SDGs implementation. Moreover, SDG focal points across line

ministries have been established to ensure the effective coordination and seamless communication among different ministries. At the national level, the National Steering Committee chaired by the Prime Minister has been established.

Mr. Chair,

7. Partnership plays a critical role in supporting the effective implementation of SDGs. As such, we continue to work with all development partners, UN agencies and international organizations through the Round Table Process, which has become an effective platform to take stock of SDGs implementation and provide practical policy recommendations as well as ensuring a sufficient resource mobilization.
8. Despite the progress made on many fronts, some challenges still remain. This includes, among others, ensuring effective institutional coordination among different stakeholders and most importantly to mobilize sufficient funding, technological know-how, and human-resource development for SDG implementation.

Mr. Chair,

9. Let me conclude by reiterating that partnership is critical for the attainment of SDGs. In this regard, we sincerely thank all development partners, UN agencies and international organizations for the continued support and assistance extended to our country, which reflect a strong commitment to effectively implement the global development agendas and pursue the path of sustainable development while leaving no one behind.

I Thank you.