

Ms. Moukdavanh Sisoulith, Deputy Director, UN Political and Security  
Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of  
Foreign Affairs of Lao PDR

Workshop on multi-stakeholder partnerships for the SDGs Implementation  
in Asia and the Pacific

Session 2 – Country approaches on implementing the SDGs through  
multi-stakeholder partnerships

UNESCAP, Bangkok, 28 March 2017

Thank you, Facilitator,

Distinguished panelists and participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to thank UNU-IAS and UNESCAP for organizing this important Workshop and for inviting me to share our experience on implementing the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships. Allow me to elaborate on what we have done so far in terms of incorporating the SDGs into our national development planning process and our effort to engage stakeholders in achieving our development objectives.

Like many other countries, Lao PDR represented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Planning and Investment had actively participated in the development process of SDGs and the 2030 Agenda since the very

beginning which was in parallel with the development of our 8<sup>th</sup> Five Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP) for the period 2016-2020, Ten Year Development Strategy (2016-2025) and Vision 2030. Therefore, we have been able to mainstream relevant substantive elements of SDGs and 2030 Agenda into our 8th NSEDP in which around 60% of its indicators are related to SDG indicators. This will enable us to track progress towards the implementation of the SDGs. In view of its specific development challenge, the Lao PDR has also adopted our national SDG 18 entitled “Lives safe from UXOs” with a focus on removing UXO obstacle to national development. Its official formalization was held on 7 September 2016 in Vientiane by Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

In terms of institutional arrangement, our National Steering Committee on the implementation of SDGs is chaired by the Prime Minister, underscoring our unwavering commitment to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Members of the National Steering Committee include Ministers and Vice Ministers of relevant Ministries, representatives of concerned agencies and organizations like Lao Women's Union, Lao Youth Union and Lao Federation of Trade Union. It is now essential to ensure that the SDGs are mainstreamed into all sectors and more importantly also reach out to the local level. With the support from the UN Country Team, we are now finalizing the national SDG indicators.

To achieve our national development objectives and the SDGs, forging inclusive partnership is of great importance. In this regard, the Round Table Process, co-chaired by the Government and UNDP has become a key mechanism for development cooperation, coordination and aid

effectiveness while providing a dynamic space for dialogue on development priorities. It brings together the Government at central and local level, development partners, private sector, civil society and other stakeholders in the spirit of inclusive partnership around ten sector working groups and a number of sub-sector working groups.

I would like to point out that in November 2015, the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting adopted Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016-2025) which is a vital tool to ensure greater development results in our country and will help support our efforts to graduate from Least Developed Country status and implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Vientiane Declaration does not constitute a legally binding instrument, yet represents a shared aspiration and recognition between the government and the diverse partners on how development work is managed in the country for the next 10 years for better and more sustainable development results.

Let me also highlight that the last Round Table Implementation Meeting held in November 2016 did promote an inclusive partnership approach for the achievement of the national priorities, with a strong implementation focus, in particular on four priority areas: Sustainable Development Goals; food and nutrition security; green growth, climate change and disaster preparedness; and the Country Action Plan for the Vientiane Partnership Declaration 2016-2025, which was endorsed at the Round Table Implementation Meeting.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are of the view that Goal 17 “Strengthening the means of implementation and the global partnership for sustainable development holds the key to the successful and effective implementation of SDGs. At the same time, national development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, the availability of appropriate knowledge, technologies and resources as well as capacity-building. In this regard, the international community has to pursue policy coherence and an enabling environment for sustainable development at all levels and by all actors, and to reinvigorate the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

At the country level, the Lao Government and its Development Partners recognize the importance of reinforcing our partnership that is broader, more inclusive and more relevant to the national circumstances, founded on shared principles as stated in the new Vientiane Declaration, for effective development cooperation. We are of the view that by working collaboratively and closely together and utilizing our respective comparative advantages, we will be able to address both persistent and new challenges and achieve greater and better development results. All of this will certainly contribute to achieving our sustainable development, including graduating from Least Developed Country (LDC) status, within the framework of the 8th NSEDP, the 10 year Socio-Economic Development Strategy (2016-2025) and the National Vision 2030.

Thank you for your kind attention.