



Lao People's Democratic Republic

**STATEMENT BY
H.E. MRS. KHAMPHAO ERNTHAVANH, DEPUTY MINISTER,
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
AT THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE TO ADOPT THE
GLOBAL COMPACT FOR SAFE, ORDERLY AND REGULAR
MIGRATION**

10-11 December 2018, Marrakesh, Morocco

(Please check against delivery)

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, on behalf of my delegation, I would like to express our sincere congratulation to Mr. President on your election. I would also like to join the previous speakers in congratulating Mexico and Switzerland, the co-facilitators, for their commendable work and tireless effort over the past years of negotiation of the GCM.

We express our profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for the warm hospitality and for excellent arrangement for this significant conference in this beautiful city of Marrakesh.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR is the only landlocked and least developed country in Southeast Asia and is considered as a country of origin and destination for migration. Given the unique geographical location and such characteristic, our country has faced a more complex phenomenon on migration flow. Therefore, the Lao Government attaches importance to addressing migration and migration-related issues. We share the view that poverty, inequality in development and crisis, among others, are often a driving force for people to migrate or move from one place to another in seeking for better economic opportunity and for a better life. We believe that addressing the root cause should be a priority in the cooperation and the implementation of the Global Compact. Proper migration will help reduce poverty, inequality and organized crime, including trafficking in persons. It is believed that effective cooperation and joint efforts by international community in addressing migration challenges will contribute to positive development outcomes and to realizing the SDGs. At the same time, we should enhance our effort to reduce the incidence and negative impact of irregular migration through international cooperation and measures put forward in this GCM.

In this respect, the Lao Government welcomes the adoption of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a non-legally binding, global framework with the comprehensive objectives for fostering international cooperation in the area of migration.

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to continue support international community efforts to address the migration challenges through its national policy and legislation and through its active participation and cooperation with its neighboring countries including in the context of regional framework and mechanisms while fulfilling its commitment and obligation under international law that it is a party to. We believe that the effective implementation of the Global Compact will enhance partnership and sufficient support taking into account the reality and capacity of a country on the basis of the national development policies and priorities.

I thank you for your kind attention!