



Statement

by

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at the Meeting of the National Focal Points of the Least
Developed Countries on the Implementation of the Istanbul
Programme of Action (IPoA)

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(Please check against delivery)

Madam Chair,
Distinguished delegates,

1. At the outset, I would like to express my sincere congratulations to you and your bureau for organizing this important Meeting of the National Focal Points of LDCs on the implementation of the Istanbul Programme of Action (IPoA).
2. Over the past years, the international community has made collective efforts to work towards achieving the set goals and targets stipulated in the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and the IPoA. As a result, many countries have experienced a steady economic growth and considerably reduced extreme poverty and hunger. Nevertheless, emerging challenges and poverty remains widespread across all regions, particularly in the Least Developed Countries. Therefore, the international community must redouble its efforts to overcome these challenges and fight against poverty and fully implement the IPoA and 2030 Agenda in order to achieve an ambitious target of enabling half of LDCs to reach the graduation criteria by 2020 and ensure that no one will be left behind.

Madame Chair,

3. At the national level, the Lao Government has adopted several policy measures to eradicate poverty, ultimately graduate from the LDC status and prepare for the smooth transition in the future. Therefore, the Government has mainstreamed the IPoA into its current 8th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016–2020) to ensure the effective implementation of the IPoA. As a result, the 8th NSEDP and its M&E framework serve as a tool to track national development achievement and the mid-term review (MTR) of the Plan is currently being conducted, aiming to assess the progress made against its goals and objectives. This review will take stock of progress made, identify the lessons learnt, provide valuable insights and useful recommendations for effective implementation of the remaining period.

Madame Chair,

4. In 2018 review of the CDP has indicated that the Lao PDR has met two eligibility criteria to graduate from LDC Status for the first time because the Lao PDR has passed the thresholds for GNI and HAI. *[The country met the graduation threshold for the first time, above Gross National Income (1,996 \$) and Human Assets Index thresholds (72,8) but below Economic Vulnerability Index (33,7).]* Against this backdrop, the Government has further undertaken national policy reform and mobilize all available resources for supporting the implementation of its national development plans in order for the country to meet eligibility criteria in the next triennial review of the category of LDCs in 2021 and prepare for a smooth transition for LDCs graduation in the future.
5. In this context, in terms of what kind of supports are needed? Perhaps advisory services from the UN and other partners for countries to overcome post-graduation challenges, ensure sustainability and address uncertainties and what will be new form of development cooperation available. We hope that OHRLLS and other UN Agencies continue to provide opportunities to exchange with newly graduated countries, preparation of graduation strategy, access to new sources of financing for development, capacity building programs in different aspects based on specific needs in the country especially for the Lao PDR being categorized as LDC and LLDC at a time when ODA has already been declining and uncertainties are already existing.

Madam Chair,

6. Let me conclude, by reaffirming that the Lao PDR is strong committed to the effective implementation of the IPoA. We will continue working closely with all development partners, and international organizations in implementing the IPoA and achieve the SDGs, ultimately lift the country from LDC status. On this final note, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all friendly countries, development partners, and international organizations for the continued support and assistance extended to the Lao PDR in our national development efforts. I wish our deliberation a great success.

I thank you.