

# **Presentation of the Lao PDR at the Meeting of National Focal Points of the Least Developed Countries**

## **Session 1: Updates on the status of implementation and mainstreaming of the DPoA into national development policies**

**By Mr. Alomlangsy RAJVONG**

- **Chair of the LDC Group,**
- **Moderator from OHRLLS,**
- **National Focal Points for LDCs,**

1. In the year 2000, the Lao PDR set its goals for LDC graduation by 2020. Since then, it has integrated the Programme of Action for LDCs into its national socio-economic development plans from 2001 to date. As a result of two consecutive reviews in 2018 and 2021, the Lao PDR was identified as a country eligible for graduation despite the setback caused by the outbreak of Covid-19 in 2020-2021 that undermined many progress and achievements attained prior to Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, given the negative impact posed by Covid-19 outbreak, the Lao PDR has given a 5 year extended transitional period that would end by the year 2026.
2. The Doha Programs of Action for LDCs has been initially streamlined into the national planning process in order to lay a strong foundation for smooth and sustainable graduation. It is our belief that DPOA will help the Government, development partners and relevant stakeholders to stay focused more on development priorities, addressing the most pressing needs and challenges that may disrupt the country's graduation process.
3. on another note, the Lao PDR has embarked on many phases of formulating our Smooth Transition Strategy or STS, which is a policy framework tailored for the country's needs in response to possible disruptions in our national development course that can support a smooth, quality, and sustainable graduation toward 2026

and beyond. Currently the STS is in its final stage of finalization, in June the National Secretariat for LDC Graduation and the UN Resident Coordination Office jointly organized the Technical Validation Workshop to finalize the Draft STS. According to the Roadmap, the STS will be proposed to the Lao Government for adoption by the early of August this Year.

4. In terms of LDC graduation process monitoring, the Lao PDR National Secretariat for LDC Graduation monitors the indicators through our National Social-Economic Development Plan annual report and with the Lao Statistic Bureau. Moreover, the Lao PDR also works closely with UN Committee for Development Policy to develop the Enhance Monitoring Mechanism for LDC graduation.
  5. However, on the Follow-up and Monitoring mechanisms specifically for the implementation of the DPOA at our National level which is on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Session of our Meeting, I am of the view that the NFPs need further help, support and guidance from the OHRLLS to enhance the monitoring framework at the national level, including capacity building for NFPs and relevant stakeholders as mentioned by H.E. Ms. Rabab Fatima, Under-Secretary-General this morning.
- **Ladies and Gentlemen,**
6. Graduating from LDC status and implementing the DPOA require not only the strong commitments and concrete actions by LDC governments but also by the international community as a whole. It is therefore crucial that LDCs continues receiving partnership, cooperation and international support during graduation, transition and beyond graduation, including support to promote export diversification, provision of easy and flexible access to climate mitigation and adaptation finance on a concessional basis, technology transfer and continued Official Development Assistance to meet financing gaps, among others.

7. The Lao PDR looks forward to learning from the other LDC national experiences in mainstreaming the provisions of the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2022-2031 into their national development plans, and to working closely with the OHRLLS, other relevant agencies and stakeholders to implement the DPOA and make this historic graduation possible.

I thank you.