

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

Session 2: Follow-up and monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the DPoA at all levels

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1. In 2018, the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR issued a decree on the Establishment of the National Steering Committee for the Implementation of Istanbul Programme of Action consisting of 14 members from relevant ministries, chaired by Minister of Foreign Affairs. Under this National Steering Committee, there is a National Focal Point Secretariat for the Implementation of Programme of Action for LDCs, located in the Department of International Organization, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. This National Steering Committee used to work on IPoA and now continues to work on the DPOA.
2. The Lao Government has integrated the works from each Programme of Action into its National-Social Economic Development Plan. So, for DPoA, it has also been streamlined into our national planning process. The Lao PDR works closely with the UN Country Team under the Lao PDR – UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework 2022-2026 (UNSDCF) as well as the UN Agency Country Development Document or Framework. The collaboration between the Government and with UN Country Team aim at supporting the implementation National Development Plan, SDGs implementation as well as other country's priority including poverty eradication, the graduation of LDCs status and the implement of DPOA. The UN Country Team also provides technical and financial

support on monitoring of the implementation of the national development plans and strategies.

3. However, data to support the monitoring of the implementation of the DPOA and other priorities is still a challenge for the Lao PDR. In our country, the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) under the Ministry of Planning and Investment takes lead to be the national data provider. The challenges that LSB is facing related to capacity building for statisticians and the system to harmonize administrative data and the national data, and the lack of funding to conduct data gathering and surveys.
4. To conclude, the monitoring mechanism for DPoA implementation rely on the monitoring of other development plans that DPoA is incorporated into. Therefore, it is still challenging for our country to establish a stand-alone mechanism just for DPoA itself due to limited capacity both in terms of technical and financial aspects. In this regard, the capacity building for the National Focal Point and members of the National Steering Committee, financial and technical assistance on data collection and systematic report formulation are highly needed for the implementation and monitor of DPOA at the National Level.

I thank you.