

Statement

On the outcome of Panel Discussion on Sustainable Development Goals
for 2016 Round Table Implementation Meeting
24th November 2016

**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Thongphane Savanhphet, Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs
25th November 2016, Vientiane Province**

- Excellency Governor of Vientiane Province,
- Excellencies Ministers, Deputy Ministers,
- Development Partners,
- Distinguished guests and colleagues,
- Ladies and gentlemen:

It is my great honor, on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the line-ministries, provincial representatives, and development partners, to present key recommendations regarding the implementation of the SDGs to this Round Table Implementation Meeting.

1. We acknowledge the result of pre-consultations held on 10 November on the integration of the Sustainable Development Goals into our national development agenda, which fed into a panel discussion on the first day of this year's Round Table Implementation meeting. With the participation of Government representatives, development partners, civil society and private sector, these consultations have identified a number of important issues and provided recommendations on the way forward in implementing the global sustainable development agenda in Lao PDR.
2. To put these discussions into practice, the Round Table Implementation Meeting identifies a number of priority actions to be taken.

The following actions have already been taken since the pre-consultations:

3. On 16 November, the Prime Minister's Office issued a decision to establish the national Steering Committee for Sustainable Development Goals. The Prime Minister will lead this Steering Committee, with Minister of Foreign Affairs as first vice-chair and Minister of Planning and Investment as the second vice-chair. Its membership consists of Ministers and Vice-ministers and heads and deputy heads of ministry's equivalent agencies.
4. The National SDGs Secretariat will be established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, headed by the Director-General of the International Organizations Department. The Secretariat consists of the Department of International Organizations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Department of Planning at the Ministry of Planning and Investment, and the Lao Statistics Bureau.
5. Development partners, civil society and private sector will continue to actively participate in the consultations around the SDGs and play an integral role in supporting their achievement at the national and sub-national levels.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

A number of additional actions need to be taken immediately within 2017 are as follows.

6. SDG focal points will be nominated by line ministries, Government agencies and provinces. In addition, each province will consider nominating SDG focal points at district- and village-level as appropriate.
7. To create an enabling environment for SDG monitoring and assessment, key actions will be taken to strengthen the national statistical system and improve the quality and disaggregation of data.
 - a. These actions will be framed by a review of the statistics law, a mid-term assessment of the Strategy for the Development of the National Statistics System, and update of this Strategy for 2016-2025, integrating the SDGs.
 - b. Capacities will be strengthened at all levels of the statistical organization-horizontally and vertically.
 - c. The Lao Statistics Bureau in coordination with line-ministries will set up a working group on SDG indicators. This working group will develop an action plan on tracking progress towards the SDG indicators. It will integrate the SDGs into the budgeting and institutional setup of the LSB.
8. The Government and development partners in consultation with civil society and private sector - will strengthen issue-based coalitions to focus their support on critical issues such as food and nutrition security, and on critical target groups such as adolescent girls, ensuring that no one is left behind. Focusing resources in this way will accelerate progress towards multiple SDGs at the same time and promote swift graduation from Least Developed Country status. The Sector Working Groups and other partnership fora are tasked to prioritize the relevant SDG targets in their 2017 work plans.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

A number of additional measures to accelerate the SDGs will be taken through the implementation of the 8th NSEDP.

9. Priority focus will be put on enhancing domestic resource mobilization, including tax revenue, for SDG and NSEDP achievement.
 - a. The development and adaptation of SDG financing strategies to the country context, will strengthen the linkage between financing and results, and accelerate progress. The SDG Steering Committee will consider the development of an Integrated National Financing Framework for Lao PDR.
 - b. The Ministry of Finance will work closely with line-ministries on their respective budget allocations towards the identified NSEDP and SDG priorities. Ministries will justify their budgets and be held accountable vis-à-vis the National Assembly; provincial governments will justify their budgets and be held accountable vis-à-vis the Provincial People's Assemblies.
 - c. Financing for SDGs and NSEDP will become a regular part of the Round Table dialogue.
10. The SDG Steering Committee will continue inclusive consultations on the implementation of the SDGs with participation of civil society, private sector and local citizens.
11. In conclusion, I would like to thank all participants to this Round Table Implementation Meeting for your important contributions in the implementation of the SDGs for the benefits of the people in Lao PDR. We do hope that such valuable support and assistance will be continued.

Thank You.