

Concept Note
LDC Graduation & SDG Integration
2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) Pre-consultation
10th November 2017, ICTC

1. Introduction

- The 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting (2017 RTIM), organised towards the end of November 2017, will feature a **dedicated panel discussion** and a **plenary policy dialogue** on graduation from Least Developed Country (LDC) status and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) integration.
- This topic has been chosen as one of the four main focus areas of this year's RTIM, as Lao PDR prepares itself for the **Triennial LDC review in March 2018** and the **High Level Political Forum in July 2018**, to which Lao PDR will submit its first Voluntary National Review of progress towards the SDGs.
- Graduating from LDC status and achieving the SDGs will require collective efforts. Moreover, **appropriate policies and actions** will need to be carefully formulated, and effectively executed and monitored.
- Therefore, to help **identify practical actions and develop key messages** to be conveyed by the Government and development partners at the panel discussion and plenary policy dialogue during the 2017 RTIM, pre-consultation on LDC graduation and SDG integration will be **led by:**
 - Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Department of International Organization)
 - Ministry of Planning and Investment (Department of Planning, Lao Statistic Bureau and Development Policy Centre)
 - With technical support from some key development partners who have been actively involving in the topic and were consulted during the finalization of the 2017 RTIM guidance note, and with lead facilitation support by the UN Team.

2. Objectives

- Update on progress towards LDC graduation and SDG Achievement.
- Prepare for the longer-term implications of LDC graduation
- Provide recommendations for further SDG integration, which can be integrated into the SDG road map
- Develop key messages to be conveyed at the 2017 RTIM

3. Date and Venue: 10th November 2017, ICTC

Provisional agenda

- 08:30 – 09:00 **Registration**
- 09:00 – 09:10 **Opening remarks – Chair of the Meeting**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 09:10 – 09:20 **Remarks – Co-Chair of the Meeting**
Ms. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative
- 09:20 – 09:35 **Main presentation – LDC review from 2015 to 2018 and a preparation for the 2018 SDG voluntary report**
By Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- 09:35 – 09:50 Coffee Break
- 09:50 – 10:30 **Panel discussion – LDC graduation process is only the first milestone in a marathon of development, not the winning post of a race to escape the LDC category and its link to the SDGs**
1. DOP/MPI (TBC)
2. PRC/MPI (Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone, Division Director, Confirmed)
3. A representative from the UN
4. Switzerland
Moderator – DIO/MOFA
- 10:30 – 11:50 **Open Discussion**
- 11:50 – 11:55 **Closing remarks – Co-Chair of the Meeting**
Ms. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator/UNDP Resident Representative
- 11:55 – 12:00 **Closing remarks – Chair of the Meeting**
Ministry of Foreign Affairs