

Summary of key discussion points from the meeting of chairs and co-chairs of SWG, Sub-Sector Working Groups and other related stakeholders. 29th June 2017 – MPI Conference Room

Objectives of the meeting

To brief stakeholders on what have been done and what needs to be prepared 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting in various aspects, in particular, objectives, themes and focused areas.

The meeting is chaired by By H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment and co-chaired by Dr. Juliet Fleischl, WHO Resident Representative, UN Resident Coordinator a.i and by Mr. B. Murali, UNDP Resident Representative, a.i

Please refer to

- *Annex 1 – Agenda of the meeting*
- *Annex 2 – Remarks by Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury*
- *Annex 3 – Remarks by Dr. Juliet Fleischl*

Presentation on progress of the preparation for the 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting

By Mr. Sysomphorn Phetdaoheung, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment. *Please refer to Annex 4 – the Actual Presentation*

Key points (please also refer to the 2017 RTIM Guidance Note for more detailed information)

1. Overall aim of the 2017 RTIM

- The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) will be organised with an overall aim of promoting coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementation of the 8th NSEDP for realizing LDC graduation and achieving SDGs.

2. Proposed over-arching theme of the 2017 RTIM is: “Greater partnership for implementation of the 8th NSEDP: Realizing LDC graduation and achieving SDGs”

3. Special Focuses for Dialogue:

- i. LDC gradation and SDG Integration
- ii. Realizing quality private sector investment for development
- iii. Investment in skills for human development
- iv. Further enhancing south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation in particular strengthened ASEAN engagement in the Round Table Process

4. Possible Presentation

- i. Summary annual NSEDP progress and priorities for 2018 including successes, challenges and new insights/learning (supplemented by a summary report within the Background Document).
- ii. Update on LDC Graduation including preparation for the 2018 Triennial LDC Review and the first Lao national SDG report (supplemented by a summary report contained within the Background Document)
- iii. Enabling environment for realizing quality private sector investment for development (Detailed content to be decided at later stage)

5. **Date and venue** - End of November and in a province - Three choices – Champasack, Savannakhet or Borikhamxay.
6. DIC/MPI is expect to have **meetings with individual SWG Secretariat** from now till RTIM to discuss preparation and answer any questions which might emerge
7. **Deadline for submission of an outcome-based sectoral progress report to DIC/MPI is on 29th September 2017**

Discussions, Q&A and concluding points by Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. B. Murali, UNDP Resident Representative, a.i

1. **Results of 2017 RTIM – a contribution to 8th NSEDP midterm review, 2018 LDC review and 2018 SDG Voluntary Report** – policy dialogues at SWGs, pre-consultations, RTIM and other related forums play important role in supporting the Government of Lao PDR to prepare for what will happen in 2018 such as mid-term review of 8th NSEDP, 2018 LDC review and 2018 SDG Voluntary Report.
2. **Early meeting of Sector Working Groups** - There is an agreement among participants that individual Sector Working Group should meet as early as possible to discuss and consult on common messages for policy dialogue at the Round Table Implementation Meeting. Experience from previous year requires all SWGs not to organize their consultations/meeting one or two weeks before the actual RTIM
3. **Strong support of the aims, key theme, focused areas of the 2017 RTIM** - Participants had no objection and expressed strong support for the aim, key theme, focused areas, and various elements of the 2017 RTIM as highlighted by DIC/MPI and as documented in the 2017 RTIM Guidance Note.
4. **The organization of the RTIM in a province** - There is also a support for organizing the RTIM in one of the three provinces nominated. Two provinces out of three that participants recommended are Champasack and Savannakhet (Borikhamxay was already the host of field visits during the 12th High Level Round Table Meeting in 2015). Both provinces have various development projects and activities in partnerships with various stakeholders which are relevant to the theme of the RTIM itself.
5. **Field visits in a province linking to the key focused areas of the RTIM** - There is a request to look at Special Economic Zones, check points and transportation related matters in Savanakheth which could provide useful information on effective development cooperation. UXO clearance activities in Savanakheth is also a main activity which could be a good site for field visits.
6. **Cross cutting themes (Investing in adolescent girls for Sustainable Development Goals “the introduction of “Noi” and focus on adolescent girls, World Food Day – key them: Change the future of migration. Invest in food security and rural development, UXO, etc)** - A request has been made to pay extra attention to cross-cutting themes as highlighted to be integrated into discussions at SWGs, pre-consultations and the RTIM itself. RTP Secretariat, SWG Secretariats and relevant responsible parties will need to work together to ensure how these cross cutting themes be addressed in a strategic and well-coordinated manner.
7. **ASEAN Plus countries and engagement of other regional partners such as China** – Participants strongly support four focused areas of the RTIM particularly South-South Cooperation, Triangular Cooperation and engagement of ASEAN in the Round Table Process. There is a request to engage with ASEAN plus countries as well and it is important

to learn more from Chinese cooperation in Lao PDR. ASEAN plus, south-south partners and other regional partners should also engage at the sectoral level as well.

- 8. A link between RTP/SWG and LBF** – As one of the key focus of this year RTIM is on quality private sector investment in development, it is important to create a stronger link between RTP/SWG and Lao Business Forum (LBF) which was recently organised in March 2017.
- 9. Interactive discussions at the RTIM** – pre-consultations and SWG meetings are excellent forums to identify policy issues in more detailed manner. The setting and presentations at the RTIM itself could be less formal and be geared toward discussions, questions and answers.

Annex 1

Meeting of the Chairs and Co-chairs of Sector Working Groups and other related stakeholders

29th June 2017, at MPI Conference Hall (Level 6)

AGENDA

- 13:30 – 14:00 **Registration**
- 14:00 – 14:10 **Opening remarks**
By H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment
- 14:10 – 14:20 **Remarks**
By Dr. Juliet Fleischl, WHO Resident Representative, UN Resident Coordinator a.i
- 14:20 – 14:40 **Presentation on progress of the preparation for the 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting**
By Mr. Sysomphorn Phetdaoheung, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment
- 14:40 – 15:40 **Plenary Discussion**
- 15:40 – 15:50 **Remarks**
By Mr. Balasubramaniam Murali, UNDP Resident Representative a.i.
- 15:50 – 16:00 **Wrap-up and Closing**
By H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment
- 16:00 **Refreshments**

Annex 2
Opening remarks
By Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury
Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment
Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of SWGs, Sub-Working Groups and other related stakeholders
29th June 2017
(Checked against delivery)

- Dr. Juliet Fleischl, WHO Resident Representative and UN Resident Coordinator a.i.
 - Mr. Murali, UNDP Resident Representative, a.i
 - Vice Ministers
 - Director Generals/Deputy Director Generals
 - Representatives from line ministries
 - Ambassadors/Head of International Agencies
 - Distinguished Guests
 - Ladies and Gentlemen
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- On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment, it is my great pleasure to chair this meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups – almost three months after the Round Table Process retreat in March this year.
 - This is an important meeting to brief each other on all the preparation done so far and what to do next to ensure that we share common understanding on the Round Table Implementation Meeting to be organized toward the end of November this year.
 - I am in particular delighted to share with you that our National Steering Committee met at the beginning of this month to review and give guidance on various activities leading up to this year RTIM.
 - The National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process approved the 2017 RTIM concept and roadmap and stressed the importance of greater partnership for development results including ensuring that national development agenda is effectively translated into concrete actions at local level.
 - The Committee has tasked DIC/MPI and Line Ministries to work closely with all national and international partners to ensure the success of this year's RTIM as a follow-up from the RTIM organized last year.
 - While MPI will present the progress and update on all preparations, I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate the importance of having a fruitful and constructive dialogue on how we could further strengthen our partnership and cooperation across a broadening range of development challenges and opportunities that are of our great mutual interests.
 - In this regard, it is important for all of us to work together in the spirit of the Vientiane Declaration to concentrate our focus on substance rather than process.
 - Therefore, I would like to encourage all of us who are here today, and those whom you will consult with after today's meeting, to provide recommendations for key themes and focus of this year RTIM including key activities, consultations at SWG level and pre-consultations leading to the meeting itself. I have somehow instructed DIC/MPI to work with SWGs to

have more consultations leading to the RTIM. We have learned from last year that SWGs organized meetings last minute before RTIM.

- Key recommendations from the Round Table Meetings form a good basis for us to identify what could be the focus of this year RTIM.
- In particular, I am keen to hear from all of you in the areas needed most for the LDC graduation such as those relating to human development along side with quality growth and economic related matters. Today we discussed about GNI and growth. This year we expect 6%. We need to work hard to achieve higher growth through inclusive matter.
- We also need to pay great attention to important steps to create common and coordinated work at the sectoral and provincial levels which need to have a clear link with the Round Table Implementation Meeting.
- All of our work will need to yield concrete results and impacts. I strongly believe that business as usual needs to be changed. Our Round Table Process and Sector Working Group work plans need to be more about results with clearer indicators and targets.
- In particular, we will need to find innovative ways to ensure that what we are doing are actually making a difference to life of people on the ground. At the end of day, this is all development cooperation is about.
- I will stop here and before I end my remarks, I encourage all of us today to be frank, and provide constructive feedback in a coordinated, inclusive and forward looking manner.
- On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment, I would like to thank all of you here today and those who provide inputs in one way or another but could not make it today.
- My sincere thanks to co-chairs to day. The success of this year's RTIM will depend on our active participation.
- I officially open today meeting and hope that today meeting will be another platform to bring all of us closer and identify various key important elements for enhancing our partnership for the achievement of the 8th NSEDP.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Annex 3
Opening Remarks - UN Resident Coordinator, a.i.
SWG and SSWG Chairs and Co-Chairs Meeting
Thursday 29 June 2017, 2-4 pm at MPI Conference Hall (6th Floor)
(Checked against delivery)

*Excellency Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment,
Excellencies Chairs and Co-Chairs of the Sector Working Groups,
Esteemed Ambassadors and Representatives of development partners, civil society and private sector,
Distinguished colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,*

- As United Nations Resident Coordinator ad interim, it is my great pleasure to co-chair this meeting.
- Today, we take stock of the progress achieved since the Round Table Meeting in November 2016, and prepare for this year's Round Table Meeting, which - as in the previous years - is expected to take place in November.
- The feedback received by both the Government and its partners on the last Round Table Meeting was resoundingly positive. Among other things, participants appreciated:
 - The frank and open dialog and the inclusiveness of all partners in development, ensuring all voices are heard;
 - The pre-consultations and the panel discussions, that focused our attention on priority development issues; and
 - The field visits that grounded our discussions in the reality outside the capital.
- After the Round Table Meeting, His Excellency the Prime Minister issued an instruction to line ministries and provinces to implement the outcomes and recommendations from the meeting. This highlights the importance of our dialogue.
- At the same time, I would like to support the important the remarks made by Dr. Kikeo. We need to improve our focus on joint results - across partners, across sectors, and across provinces. We need to reduce fragmentation and enhance synergies to make better use of the limited resources available. This is a call to action for us, the development partners, as well as for the Government, to improve our coordination, to strengthen the Sector Working Groups and the various other inter-sectoral bodies, and to better link up at the local level. As in previous years, the sectoral progress reports will provide the opportunity to highlight joint successes as well as obstacles, challenges and lessons learned.
- We have also received the feedback that we need a better online platform, to improve information-sharing. An improved Round Table website will soon be launched.
- And we have received reactions on the timeliness of the pre-consultations, which in the last year were packed into the three weeks leading up to the Round Table Meeting. Ideally we would plan further in advance this year.

Esteemed ladies and gentlemen,

- In addition to hearing your views on the venue, one key question we would like to consult today is the thematic focus of the Round Table Meeting. Your feedback on the four priority areas suggested by the Government, based on prior consultations, would be appreciated. These four priority areas are:
 - LDC gradation and SDG Integration;
 - Realizing quality private sector investment for development;

- Investment in skills for human development; and
- South-south cooperation and triangular cooperation, in particular ASEAN engagement in the Round Table Process.
- I look forward to an interesting discussion, and a frank exchange of views on these and other points. I am convinced
 - that together we further improve the Round Table Process;
 - that together we will make the coming meeting an equal success; and
 - that together we will continue to accelerate sustainable human development in Lao PDR.
- Thank you for your attention.

Update and Preparation for the 2017 Round Table Implementation Meeting

**Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working
Groups, Sub-Sector Working Groups and other
stakeholders**

29 June 2017, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Vientiane

Mr. Sysomphorn Phetdaoheuang
Deputy Director General
Department of International Cooperation
Ministry of Planning and Investment

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Content

- I. Key progress since the 2016 Round Table
Implementation Meeting
- II. Preparation for the 2017 Round Table
Implementation Meeting
- III. Timeframe and roadmap

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I. Key progress since the 2016 RTIM

- Prime Minister's instruction to the Government to put the RTIM outcomes into practice
 - Dissemination at national and provincial levels
 - Ongoing follow-up by Sector Working Groups and line ministries
- 2017 Round Table Process Retreat with useful recommendations; 2017 Round Table Roadmap and Guidance Note drafted

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II. Preparation for the 2017 RTIM (1) as guided by the National Steering Committee and follow up meetings with some key partners

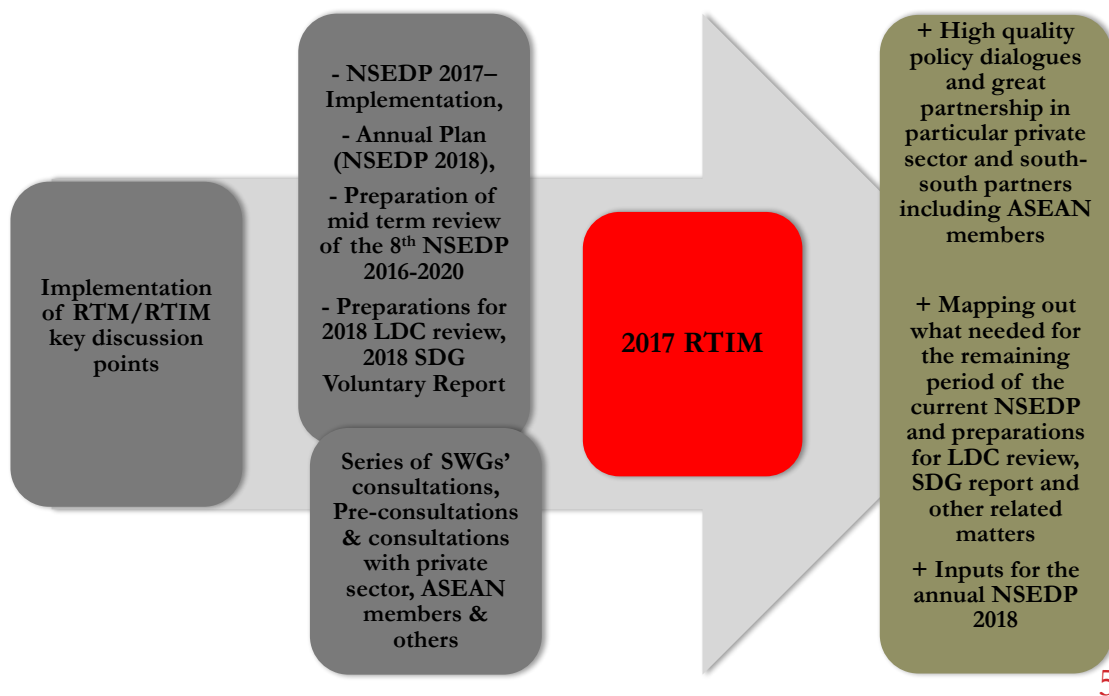
2.1 Overall aim: The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) will be organised with an overall aim of *promoting coherence and multi-stakeholder partnerships for implementation of the 8th NSEDP for realizing LDG graduation and achieving SDGs.*

2.2 Proposed over-arching theme of the 2017 RTIM - *“Greater partnership for implementation of the 8th NSEDP: Realizing LDC graduation and achieving SDGs ”*

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II. Preparation for the 2017 RTIM (2) as guided by the National Steering Committee and follow up meetings with some key partners

2.3 Overall expectations



II. Preparation for the 2017 RTIM (3) as guided by the National Steering Committee and follow up meetings with some key partners

2.4 Proposed Special Focuses for Dialogue:

- LDC gradation and SDG Integration
- Realizing quality private sector investment for development
- Investment in skills for human development
- Further enhancing south-south cooperation and triangular cooperation in particular strengthened ASEAN engagement in the Round Table Process

II. Preparation for the 2017 RTIM (3) as guided by the National Steering Committee and follow up meetings with some key partners

2.5 Possible Presentation

- Progress and achievements of 2017 NSEDP and priorities (plan, budget and monetary management and others) for 2018
 - Include successes, challenges and new insights/learning
 - Supplemented by a summary report within the Background Document.
- Update on LDC Graduation and SDG Integration
 - Includes preparation for the 2018 Triennial LDC Review and the first Lao national SDG report
 - Supplemented by a summary report contained within the Background Document
- Enabling environment for realizing quality private sector investment for development
 - Detailed content to be decided at later stage

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II. Preparation for the 2017 RTIM (4) as guided by the National Steering Committee and follow up meetings with some key partners

2.6 Venue

- **A Province location** for the RTIM has the advantage of taking the policy discussions ‘to the field’, where development impacts are really needed.
- **Three provinces for considerations** include cost, transport, attendance, logistics and security.
 1. Champasack (various development activities with partnership with private sector, ASEAN countries and other development partners in various areas such as poverty reduction, tourism, agriculture, rural development, UXOs, health/education and others)
 2. Savannakhet (various development activities with partnership with private sector, ASEAN countries and other development partners – poverty reduction, agriculture, UXOs, vocational training and others)
 3. Borikhamxay (closer to Vientiane, various development activities – health, education, poverty reduction, UXO, and others)

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III. 2017 RTIM Schedule and Timeframe (1)

Key activities	Time Frame
1. Preparation of the 2017 RTIM Road Map	January – March 2017
2. Dissemination of the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan – national and provincial level	Jan – May 2017
3. Preparation of the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan monitoring framework and monitoring roll out	April – September 2017
4. Revision of Decree No.75 and development of national development cooperation strategy (including consultations with partners)	Jan – September 2017
5. Round Table Process Retreat	March 2017
6. SDG National Steering Committee meeting	April - July 2017 (as often as needed)
7. Meeting of National Steering Committee for the Round Table Process	April-May & Oct –Nov 2017(as often as needed)
8. Guidance Note for the preparation of the 2017 RTIM to all Sector Working Groups Secretariats	June – August 2017 (as often as needed)
9. Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups	Quarterly (as often as needed)

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III. 2017 RTIM Schedule and Timeframe (2)

Key activities	Time Frame
10. Sector Working Group meetings (technical and executive levels)	Throughout the year
11. Annual report of the implementation of 8th NSEDP (2016/2017) and formulation of the annual Plan (2017/2018)	Sep – Dec 2017
12. Meetings between the Round Table Process Secretariat and Sector Working Group Secretariats	Through-out the year
13. Foreign Aid Reports (semi-annual and annual)	Timing to be determined
14. 2017 RTIM invitation set out	At least two months before the actual RTIM
15. Sectoral progress reports by Sector Working Groups	By 29 th September
16. 2017 RTIM Background Document	At least a month before the actual RTIM
17. Meet the press	Quarterly
18. 2017 RTIM Pre-consultations (LDC graduation/SDGs, quality private sector investment, investment in skills for human development and south-south cooperation/ASEAN engagement)	At least a month before the actual RTIM
19. 2017 RTIM and Debriefing with the Prime Minister	End of November 2017

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