

2018 Round Table Process Retreat

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I. Key lessons learnt

1. Making the Round Table Process **more inclusive** increases its relevance
2. Reaching **consensus on the agenda** for the RTM at **least six months prior** to the meeting provides clearer direction.
3. Selection of **a few priority topics** ensures focused discussions
4. **Panel discussions** and **pre-consultations** strengthen substance; **interactive dialog** with stakeholders contribute to a better understanding on priority issues
5. Sector Working Group TORs, work plans and reports: the more **results-oriented**, the better.
6. Essential for Sector Working Groups to **follow up on RTM recommendations**. **Strong secretariats** required to ensure substantive/high-quality policy dialogue.

II. Round Table Follow-up

- Key recommendations from the 2017 RTIM were reported to the Prime Minister
- The instruction from the Prime Minister's Office (PM's Instruction No. 160) was issued on 30 January 2018.
- The main purpose is to ensure clearer responsibilities of Ministries concerned to monitor and report on implementation of key recommendations

II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points

Government Agencies	Key action areas
I. Ministry of Planning and Investment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure successful mid-term review of 8th NSEDP and effective implementation of annual NSEDP 2018 2. Support reduction of economic vulnerability and diversification of country economy 3. Ensure greater participation of stakeholders and ensure successful organization of 2018 Round Table Meeting with participation of wider stakeholders, in line with key national development milestones such as the mid-term review of the 8th NSEDP, the LDC review, SDG voluntary national review, and the visit Lao year. 4. Support quality private investment and a better linkage between Lao Business Forum and RTP 5. Ensure proper guidelines for assessment and balance of potential private investment at national and local level and enhance enabling environment for private sector investment through transparent, efficient, clear and auditable one-door service.

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II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points

Government Agencies	Key action areas
I. Ministry of Planning and Investment (continued)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Ensure effective implementation of the national statistics strategies - carrying out various national surveys for monitoring 8th NSEDP including SDGs and ensuring national indicators are well understood and are well calculated and disseminated 7. Take lead in promoting and formulating projects and programmes on south-south and triangular cooperation: creating opportunities, mutual benefits from exchanges of lessons learnt, quality technology, utilization of local experts and development cooperation financing at all levels. Further enhance experience-sharing, learning exchanges, peer learning and networking among those countries with similar developing status and progresses for mutual benefits and coalition programme solving.

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II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points

Government Agencies	Key action areas
II. Ministry of Foreign Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare for the LDC review in March 2018 2. Ensure SDG integration at line ministries and provinces 3. Strategize and prepare the 2018 SDG Voluntary National Review in a participatory manner, to be presented at the High Level Political Forum on SDGs in July 2018 4. Ensure effective oversight and provide enabling conditions to facilitate civil society work as partner in development in accordance with laws and regulations of the Lao PDR; ensuring effectiveness, monitoring and reporting of programme and project implementation of civil society.
III. Ministry of Finance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue working on tax reform and modernization and effectiveness of revenue collection to facilitate quality private sector investment 2. Ensure macro-economic stability, and effective debt sustainability strategy in order to increase confidence of potential private sector investment 3. Create a better linkage between budgetary and planning process through Medium Term Expenditure Frameworks 4. Formulate integrated financing strategy for SDGs.

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II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points (continued)

Government Agencies	Key action areas
IV. Ministry of Education and Sports	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve the rate of enrolment in secondary schools, as the critical path to skilled labour, increase adult literacy and improve quality of teacher 2. Work with MOLSW on labour information system and labour demand and supply in order to increase capacity level, enhanced labour force, and integration into ASEAN. 3. Ensure that education and training policies and programs, including higher education, overseas scholarships, TVET, other post-secondary schooling and industry-based training are directed towards national human resource development priorities and the demands of the labour market in Lao PDR.
V. Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with MOES to strengthen the development of a national Labour Market Information System based on the needs of the public and private sectors. 2. Promote economy diversification, production chain to commercial production and quality services for employment purposes. 3. Work with MOIC, MPI, LNCCI on promoting decent jobs generated by private sector

II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points (continued)

Government Agencies	Key action areas
VI. Ministry of Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pay greater attention to address food and nutrition security, reduce under 5 mortality and maternal mortality to achieve the national goals and objectives 2. Ensure quality health personnel and service delivery at local level
VII. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with MONRE to address illegal logging and wildlife trafficking 2. Work with MPI and MONRE on environmental aspects of the 8th NSEDP including SDGs and LDC graduation criteria 3. Work with MPI, MOIC, and MONRE to ensure private sector contribution to cooperate social responsibility and environmental assessment of private sector investment

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II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points (continued)

Government Agencies	Key action areas
VIII. Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Continue working on the National Land Use Planning for endorsement by the National Assembly, formulate land use planning at provincial level and continue revision of Land Law to be reported to the NA by end of 2018 including creation of land valuation mapping national wide 2. Enhance Communal Land Registration and Titling national wide 3. Work with MPI and MAF on environmental aspects of the 8th NSEDP including SDGs and LDC graduation criteria 4. Work with MPI, MOIC, LNCCI to ensure private sector contribution to cooperate social responsibility and environmental assessment of private sector investment

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II. The Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office on the implementation of the RTM/RTIM key discussion points (continued)

Government Agencies	Key action areas
IX. Ministry of Industry and Commerce	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with LNCCI, and MONRE and other ministries to ensure quality, environmentally friendly, private investment 2. Ensure better linkage between Lao Business Forum & Round Table Process; ensure proper guideline for assessment of potential private investment 3. Work with LNCCI and MOLSW to ensure private sector generates decent jobs
X. Ministry of Home Affairs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensure effective oversight of NPAs and facilitate their contribution 2. Ensure effective implementation of good governance programmes for service delivery at local level
XI. Bank of Lao PDR	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Work with MPI, MOF and line ministries on macroeconomic stability, financial management, debt sustainability strategy, fiscal management to increase confidence of potential private sector investment
XII. Audit Office	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Carry out regular audit and disclose information on corruption and other irregular activities

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III. 2018 Round Table Meeting (Special Ad-hoc High Level)

Overall Objective

1. To report on key progress made in terms of:
 - Mid-term review of the 8th NSEDP,
 - Integration and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) based on the first national SDG voluntary review presented at the HL PLF at UN HQ in July 2018,
 - Results of the LDC review in March 2018
 - Implementation of Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and its Country Action Plan (VDCAP)
2. To identify concrete actions, particular on financing for development perspective and capacity development to address key challenges for the remained period of the 8th NSEDP and potential key topics/areas for the formulation of the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025).

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III. 2018 Round Table Meeting (Special Ad-hoc High Level)

Possible Options for agenda items and priority themes?

- 8th NSEDP Mid-Term Review (MTR):
- SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) and LDC Review:
- Financing for Development and Public Financial Management:
- Economic Diversification
- Others

Format? *(To ensure interactive dialogue as much as possible)*

Location? *(in Vientiane Capital or in Province)*

Timing? *(November)*

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III. 2018 RTM initial roadmap (subject to change) (1)

Key activities	2018 Timeframe	Key agencies in charge
1. Preparation of the 2018 RTM Road Map and Guidance Note	January	DIC/MPI
2. Dissemination of the Prime Minister's Instruction on implementation of the 2017 RTM policy recommendations	February – March	
3. Preparation for the mid-term review of the 8th NSEDP which is coinciding with the Visit Laos Year campaign	January – September	DOP/MPI
4. Preparation for the LDC review	Jan – March	DOP/MPI, LSB/MPI, DIC/MPI and DIO/MOFA

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III. 2018 RTM initial roadmap (subject to change) (1)

Key activities	2018 Timeframe	Key agencies in charge
5. Meet the press	Quarterly	DIC/MPI
6. Preparation of the Lao SDG Voluntary National Review (VNR) report (more detailed information, please refer to the Lao SDG VNR work-plan)	Jan-July	DIO/MOFA
7. Series of SWG meetings	Throughout the year	
8. SWG outcome based Annual Work Plan (AWP), calendar of events and updated Terms of Reference	Early February	SWG Secretariats
9. Round Table Process Retreat	Early February	DIC/MPI
10. Meeting of the National Steering Committee on Round Table Process	March/April	DIC/MPI

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III. 2018 RTM initial roadmap (subject to change) (2)

Key activities	2018 Timeframe	Key agencies in charge
11. Finalization of the 2018 RTM Roadmap and Guidance Note (<i>This includes decision made on a province to host the 2018 RTM, format, key agenda items and other key important aspects</i>)	End of March	DIC/MPI
12. Dissemination of the 2018 RTM guidance note/roadmap to all SWGs and relevant stakeholders	End of March Or Mid April	DIC/MPI
13. Roll out of the 2018 monitoring round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (Note: this will be done in line with the roll out of the first monitoring of the VDCAP)	May	DIC/MPI
14. Background briefing on the 2018 LDC review	June – August	DIO/MOFA, DOP/MPI and LSB/MPI
15. High-Level Political Forum on SDGs	July	DIO/MOFA

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III. 2018 RTM initial roadmap (subject to change) (2)

Key activities	2018 Timeframe	Key agencies in charge
16. Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups (Policy level)	Quarterly (as often as needed)	DIC/MPI
17. Meetings of SWG Secretariats and RTP Secretariat (Technical level)	Every two months	DIC/MPI and SWG Secretariats
18. Preparation of Foreign Aid Report	Jan-Oct	DIC/MPI
19. 2018 RTM invitation set out	At least two months before the actual RTM	
20. SWG reports submitted to RTP Secretariat	End of Sept/Early October	SWG Secretariats
21. 2018 RTM Background Document finalized	At least two weeks before the actual RTM	DIC/MPI
22. RTM Pre-consultations	At least a month or two before the actual RTM	
23. 2017 RTM and Debriefing with the Prime Minister	Mid to End of November	

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IV. Group Discussion

- Each participation randomly picked their group number (1 to 2) during registration. Please do not hesitate to join your preferred group – even if you picked a different number
 - Group 1 is located at the main conference room
 - Group 2 is located at a small meeting room next to the main conference room.
- Each group will need to nominate **two facilitators** (one representing the Government and another representing development partners)
- **Note-taker** and **rapporteur** should be identified beforehand.
- **Template of presentation** of group discussion results is provided.
- DIC colleagues are available to answer any questions that come up
- **Guidance for group discussion**, please refer to presentation templates provided

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Thank you