



**Lao People's Democratic Republic**  
*Peace, Independence, Democracy, Unity, Prosperity*

**Summary Report of  
The Annual Retreat on the Round  
Table Process**

15<sup>th</sup> February 2019,  
Ministry of Planning and Investment

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## I. Introduction and proceedings

The Retreat on the Round Table Process (RTP) took place on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2019 at the Training Center (Lao Front for Construction) in Vientiane. Participants included representatives from Line Ministries, Development Partners (DPs) including South-South Partners and other stakeholders representing all 10 Sector Working Groups (SWGs), colleagues from Ministry of Finance (MOF), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Bank of Lao PDR, Lao Women's Union and Lao National Committee for Advancement of Women (Lao NCAW), INGOs and Non-Profit Associations (NPAs), and Private Sector.

The Retreat was organised as a follow up from the 2018 Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2018 in Vientiane Capital. It focused on:

- (1) Follow up actions of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and linkages to SWGs; and
- (2) Recommendations and suggestions to frame the agenda of the 2019 Round Table Meeting and other key preparatory activities from now till the actual RTIM. In particular, the retreat was designed in a way to allow the Government of Lao PDR and Development Partners and other stakeholders to discuss cross sectoral coordination and a better link between the RTM and SWGs.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the Agenda and Annex 2 for the list of participants.

The RTP retreat was chaired by His Excellency Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment and co-chaired by Ms. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative.

To officially open the Retreat, the chair highlighted that the Round Table Process including Sector Work Groups continues to stimulate substantive policy dialogue on the country's development agenda, while seeking to strengthen development effectiveness and aid coordination in the country. In particular, it has been providing key recommendations for strengthening national policies and actions by the Government of Lao PDR and its Development Partners toward enhancement of the human impact of development cooperation.

The Deputy Minister pointed out that the 2018 RTIM in Vientiane Capital was broadly perceived as a success by Government and its partners due to the frank, open and inclusive dialogue, the comprehensive preparation and the concrete outcomes. To ensure continuity, key recommendations from the 2018 RTIM have been translated into an instruction by the Prime Minister No. 275 dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019. It has recently been forwarded to line ministries, provinces and agencies concerned. Partners across the development cooperation spectrum will now be expected to implement these recommendations during the remaining period of the 8<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

H.E. Dr. Chanthaboury also stressed that 2019 is an important year as Lao PDR will look into various follow up actions of an array of milestones and challenges encountered in 2018. One of the key matters relates to “build-back-better” after disasters encountered in 2018. In particular, recovery action plans at national, sectoral and provincial levels need to be implemented in a coordinated and effective manner. Greater efforts will be much needed to mobilize different types of supports to effectively build-back-better. 2019 is also an important year for the Government of Lao PDR who will closely work with various partners to prepare for formulation of the next five-year Plan (9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP 2020-2025) taking into consideration results and

recommendations from the mid-term review of the ongoing 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP that was carried out together in 2018. The formulation of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP comes in a time that Lao PDR has recently met the two out of three criteria of the LDC graduation. Therefore, it is important to think through how to sustain and accelerate the development momentum for the next LDC reviews in 2021 and 2024. This is a timeframe which is in line with the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's timeframe. On Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), 2019 is a follow up year from the first SDG Voluntary Review Report, presented in New York during the High Level Political Forum in July 2018. Last but not least, the Vice Minister stated that the organization of the Round Table Implementation Meeting in 2019 is an important task as it will not only look into the implementation of the last year RTIM key recommendations but also discuss and consult on key content of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP which will need to be finalised in time for the next Party congress scheduled for 2020.

UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Kaarina Immonen also thanked all partners for improving the Round Table Process over recent years. As co-chair, Ms. Immonen stated that the dialogue has benefitted from enhanced participation of private sector, civil society and regional partners. They have all appreciated great efforts made by the Government to ensure greater partnership and to deliver real development impacts. Ms. Immonen reiterated that consultation outcomes help inform policy design and priorities. From the international community's perspective, partners can clearly see that the process has traction and effect. Partners feel that a more predictable environment and better focus on outcomes would result in optimal use of those resources and a greater effectiveness of the process. Some of the SWGs are seen as more useful in this context, but this varies widely amongst sectors and also between participants. More effective linkages are required between the SWGs and the RTM, better coordination and forward linkages between the RTM and the SGWs for follow up. A more predictable process would dramatically increase the efficiency of the RTP. In addition, meetings in general need to become more outcome focused and less formal.

## **II. Presentation by Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment**

After the opening session of the Retreat, a presentation was made by Mr. Sysomphorn Phetdaoheuang, Deputy Director General of DIC/MPI, on follow up actions and the PM's instruction on implementation of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and preparation for 2019 Round Table Meeting. Key points from the presentation are highlighted as follow:

### **2.1 Round Table follow-up and the Instruction of the Prime Minister's Office for the implementation of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations**

- Key discussion points from the 2018 RTIM were reported to the Prime Minister
- The Prime Minister's Office issued an instruction (No.275/PM dated 14<sup>th</sup> February 2019) for the implementation of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations.
- The main purpose is to ensure clearer responsibilities of Ministries concerned to monitor and report on implementation of key discussion points.
- Key information of the instruction is summarised as follows:

<b>Outcome 1 – Economic Development</b>	
Ministry of Finance in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macroeconomic Stability</li> <li>• A link between planning and budget, greater integration between planning, financing, monitoring and evaluation, building on ongoing PFM reform initiatives</li> <li>• Public Financial Management, debt management, budget allocation, fiscal consolidation</li> <li>• Reviewing and updating regulatory frameworks</li> <li>• Greater transparency of financial activities, capacity building</li> </ul>
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transformation toward sustainable, long-term and green growth</li> <li>• Non-resource based diversification</li> <li>• Agriculture production/productivity and job creation/rural employment</li> </ul>
Ministry of Planning and Investment in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Economic transformation</li> <li>• Enabling environment and ease of doing business – Implementation of the PM’s instruction 02</li> <li>• The role of private sector</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 2 – Social development</b>	
Ministry of Education and Sports in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human capital development</li> <li>• Investment in human capital and skills development</li> </ul>
Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capacity development, teacher training, employment of teachers, health professionals to rural areas</li> <li>• Training, curriculum and teaching methods in line with the Government’s priorities and sam sang directives, effective service delivery</li> </ul>
Ministry of Labour and Social Welfares, Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater efforts to address UXO issues</li> <li>• Strengthening national capacity for coordination and efficiency</li> <li>• Assisting line ministries to incorporate UXO in their planning and budgeting</li> <li>• Involvement of various stakeholder in the UXO programme</li> </ul>
Ministry of Health in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Greater investment to improve health</li> <li>• Maternal and child mortality</li> <li>• Nutrition and food security</li> <li>• Capacity development in health sector</li> </ul>
Ministry of Planning and Investment in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statistical disaggregation</li> <li>• Enhance statistical capacity to improve the timeliness, reliability, access and analysis</li> <li>• Statistical analysis for evidence based policy formulation, implementation and monitoring</li> </ul>
<b>Outcome 3 – Environmental development</b>	

Ministry of Labour and Social Welfares and Ministry of Natural Resource and Environment in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster preparedness, management, mitigation and prevention</li> <li>• Environmental management</li> <li>• Climate change, agriculture resilience,</li> <li>• Building resilience and capacities through early warning systems especially with those communities at greatest risks</li> </ul>
Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Social Labour Welfares, MONRE, MAF in collaboration with relevant agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalisation of PDNA</li> <li>• Recovery plans at national, sectoral and provincial level within the framework of NSEDP (remaining period of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP and 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP and beyond)</li> <li>• Strengthening coordination capacities at all levels</li> <li>• Clearer roles and responsibilities</li> </ul>
<b>Cross-Cutting Areas</b>	
Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Security, Lao Women Union	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The importance of rule of law</li> <li>• Awareness and obligation under the law, capacity development for implementation and enforcement</li> <li>• Service delivery and decentralization initiatives</li> <li>• Strengthening participation of local communities and other stakeholders in poverty reduction</li> <li>• Gender equality, advancement of women and other vulnerable groups</li> </ul>

## 2.2 Initial proposed priorities and focus of 2019 RITM

### Overall Objective

1. To further enhance effective development cooperation particularly the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan (VDCAP) for better results relating to:
  - three outcomes and cross cutting areas of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP synchronising with the implementation of the Prime Minister's Instruction on the 2018 RTIM;
  - disaster recovery action plan including indicative support at national, sectoral and provincial levels; and
  - follow up actions on the SDG localization and LDC graduation, particularly the SDG and LDC indicators which need to be monitored and reported against on an annual basis
2. To review and consult on the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's concept/preparation and its linkage with the budgetary process.

### Key discussion

- **Effective development cooperation for the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP implementation and consultation on potential priorities for the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP:** dedicated sessions on Achievements, Lessons Learned & Recommendations.

### Key areas for discussion leading up to the RTIM

- **Sectoral and cross cutting specific issues** will be discussed and consulted at Sector Working Group level and then outcomes will be reported at the 2019 RTIM.

- **SDG Localization at sectoral and provincial levels and a follow up from the 2018 LDC Review**
- **A review of the implementation of the Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan (VDCAP)** in light of the third global survey on partnership for effective development cooperation.
- **Financing for Development and Public Financial Management:** A financial overview which would include both public (national and international), private investment (Lao and foreign), and others.

#### **Pre-consultations**

- Consultations on results and findings of the global survey on partnerships for effective development cooperation to inform the progress made against various actions of the VDCAP. Potential key RTIM pre-consultations, which will be organised throughout the year before the actual RTIM, could be:
  - Technical and high-level consultations – 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's preparation
  - Series of consultations for preparation of sectoral disaster recovery action plan
  - SDG localization – national forum on monitoring and reporting on progress made against the SDG indicators, SDG roadmap, SDG communication strategy and other related matters
  - Series of SWG meetings
  - Follow up workshops on the LDC graduation process
  - Series of consultations on thematic areas that need further research to help accelerate the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's implementation and the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's preparation.
  - Others as appropriate

#### **Other key aspects for the 2019 RTIM preparation**

- **For the agenda** items and priority themes, like previous in years, DIC/MPI as the RTP Secretariat stated that it is important to have three to four areas for substantive policy dialogue. The Secretariat remains opened for more suggestions if any further comments could be shared after the retreat with the Secretariat (emails).
- **On the process:** Sometimes before May/June 2019, the RTP Secretariat will report to the National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process chaired by the Prime Minister on outcomes of the retreat and further consultations for decision and guidance.
- **In terms of location,** the RTP Secretariat stated that the 2019 RTIM could be organised in Northern Laos. However, this is only an initial thought and the Secretariat is opened for additional suggestions.
- **For timing of the RTIM,** further consideration will be given as end of the year is a busy period for all stakeholders. Two options: sticking with the previous years' practice sometime in November/December or another time as seems more appropriate/suitable.
- **For the field visits,** it is important to make them a continued process throughout the year. SWGs are thus encouraged to organise field visits as appropriate (thematic/geographically). It is proposed that a day prior to the actual RTIM, and another field visit (in one of the Northern provinces) could be organised by nominated SWG in consultation with the RTP Secretariat for high level delegations.

Please refer to the 2018 RTM Roadmap and Concept for more detailed information

### III. Outcomes of Plenary/Group Discussions

#### 3.1 General comments made during the plenary discussions

- **The relevance of the Round Table Process (RTP) and inclusiveness/participation of partners apart from traditional donors but also those emerging ones and other stakeholders such as civil society and private sector:** The RTP has been seen as useful in bringing together Government, DPs and other stakeholder on a regular basis, promoting connections, exchanging information, providing a platform for discussion, and enabling networking. Focused discussion is important and there is a need to make it more interactive and focused with great outcomes. Inclusiveness is important and it also covers not only traditional donors but also other emerging donors, including CSOs and private sector. While great progress has been made in this area, there is room for improvement to ensure greater participation of relevant partners.
- **Partnership and mutual accountability.** Inclusive dialogue and consultations such as the RTP will help us move closer to a common understanding of what sustainable development means for Lao PDR, and how we can achieve it together. Partners are supporting the principles embedded in the Vientiane Partnership Declaration, for a more effective collaboration and mutual accountability to help Lao PDR reach its development aspirations.
- **Economic development outcome.** There is a need to continue dialogue on how economic growth can benefit national welfare in an inclusive way and how ODA can be used in the best way in this endeavour. To achieve economic outcomes, investment promotion policy for quality domestic and foreign direct investment is also an important contributor to meeting the financing needs of the NSEDP and help the reduce financial burden of the Government. There is a need to think about how to better promote Lao PDR as destination for higher volume of foreign direct investments (FDI). To do so, openness and transparency are important. Therefore, private sector's involvement needs to be strengthened to ensure closer link to the RTP. Prime Minister's Instruction calls for an improved enabling environment and ease of doing businesses in Lao PDR – particularly streamlining processes and procedures. It is important to promote private sector development and participation in order to foster development of the country.
- **Linkage between RTM/RTIM and SWGs:** Process and substance prepared for the RTM are important and SWGs play an important role in setting up agenda, following up and implementing the RTM key discussion points/recommendations. In particular, the Prime Minister's Instruction serves as primary important reference as it identifies relevant line ministries chairing SWGs. Therefore, SWGs have direct inputs for effective implementation, monitoring and reporting on follow up actions and progress made on RTIM/RTM recommendations.
- **Linkage between planning and budgeting.** Good progress has been made in recent years to develop a better link between planning and budget. More could be done in order to develop fiscal space needed for strong public financial management, there would be a

need to strengthen budget policy, enhance linkages between policies and the budget, and optimize resource revenues to service expenditure plans.

- **9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's preparation.** The Government of Lao PDR initiated a mid-term review (MTR) process of the Lao 8<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP 2016-2020) which was at the mid-point of the five-year implementation period in 2018. The review identified and drew upon lessons learnt to gain valuable insights and formulate recommendations for the development of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP (2021-2025). The 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP's MTR report was done based on participation of both national and international stakeholders at all levels. Sector Working Groups were requested to provide inputs and analysis fed into the review. Therefore, it is important to have a concept and a plan well in advance. There is also a need to: 1) highlight methodology and consultative process, 2) provide guidance to SWGs for preparation of their inputs and analysis; and 3) initiate ideas on key focuses and sectoral dimensions. Partners welcome the Government's efforts to continue encouraging economic reform and offer as much cooperation as possible and committed themselves to aligning support to this plan.
- **Evidence based planning and policy dialogue.** The Government is committed to evidence-based planning which is harnessing the knowledge gained from data and information and using it to optimize our planning process and improve results. It ensures that planned activities are linked to end results. Therefore, the Government will take great care to ensure that the preparation of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP is evidence based and draw from lessons learned during the implementation of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP. It will outline a strategy that supports further growth in employment across different sectors, agricultural production, trade, and resource mobilization. The Government is also committed to social policies to support creating a healthy and educated population. Important efforts are also being undertaken to build the resilience of institutions, communities and households to economic and natural shocks.
- **Human centre development.** Putting the lives of people at the center of development is the key focus for sustainable and inclusive development along side with economic and environmental thinking. This will bring a fundamental change in the way we consider poverty and development in general. Therefore, throughout the course of the implementation of the SDGs within the context of NSEDP, it is necessary that we continue the focus on live of people on the ground and accelerate our efforts for human development for the benefits of all citizens across the country.
- **Importance of rule of law and good governance.** The Government is making important administrative and legislative progress towards Lao PDR becoming a rule of law state as a fundamental prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable development. The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) plays an important role in this regard, particularly within the Governance SWG's framework. The current Prime Minister's Instruction for the follow up of the 2018 RTIM key recommendation highlights the role of Ministry of Home Affairs on matters relating to good governance. Therefore, MOHA and MOJ will keep working together closely to realize the ultimate goal of becoming a rule of law state in the near future (current target 2020).

### 3.2 Results of group discussions and relevant comments

**Group 1: 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 1 – Economic Development**

**1. Follow up actions of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and linking with SWGs**

2018 key discussion points	Key follow-up actions to be carried out.	Lead implementing national agencies	Leadings supporting partners	Relevant SWGs (Coordination and Facilitation)
1. Structural economic transformation toward sustainable, long-term, and green growth – targeting non-resource-based diversification.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quality of growth and public investment</li> <li>• Rehabilitation of flooding</li> <li>• Improving public investment and FDI promotion and management</li> <li>• Concern on Energy and mine (Hydro power sector, impact environment, contracture)</li> <li>• Review FDI investment incentives that do not benefit to economic growth such as tax collection</li> </ul>	MPI MOF	WB ADB JICA	Macro-Economic
2. Macroeconomic stability.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Debt Managements strategy (debt restructuring, align with closely Investment law)</li> <li>• Less fiscal space for social and poverty program due to high debt and continued budget deficit</li> <li>• Improving revenue collection</li> <li>• External shock BOP</li> <li>• Improving efficiency in energy sector for income source</li> </ul>	MOF MPI	WB IMF ADB EU	Macro-Economic
3. A link between planning and budgeting.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving mechanism in term of Coordination on PCAP</li> <li>• Review the mid-term on fiscal framework</li> <li>• MTEF-MOE-MOH</li> </ul>	MOF MPI	ADB WB JICA	Macro-Economic
4. Human capital development and poverty reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving quality of Education</li> <li>• Equity education between central and local</li> </ul>	MOES MPI MOF	Australia ADB WB EU UNICEF Others as relevant	

5. Levels of investment in human capital and skills development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus on investment Local SME (promoting, local investment, local production, local labour)</li> <li>Link in to skill transfer from FDI to local people</li> <li>On the job training to develop skill, local product, agriculture product and marketing</li> </ul>	MoIC MoLSW MPI		Trade and Private Sector
6. Tackling rural poverty and inequalities.		MoFA MPI MOF		
7. Further improvements to an enabling environment for contributions of various stakeholders at local level such as NPAs and INGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Should be in Cross sector</li> </ul>			

## 2. Ideas for preparation of the 2019 RTIM

Description	Comments (in addition to what highlighted in the draft 2018 RTM Roadmap and Guidance Note) and linking to SWGs when applicable
1. Overall aim	
2. Key overarching theme	Greater partnership for effective development cooperation to accelerating the implementation of the remaining period of the 8th NSEDP and preparation of the 9th NSEDP
3. Key focused areas	Greater partnership, quality investment, macro stability
4. Format	2 days format as previously organized
5. Location	Northern part of Laos (Xiengkhouang or Luangprabang)
6. Field visits	Provincial input intervention
7. Development cooperation and other related issues	

### **Group 2: 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 2 – Social Development**

## 1. Follow up actions of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and linking with SWGs

2018 key discussion points	Key follow-up actions to be carried out.	Lead implementing national agencies	Leading supporting partners	Relevant SWGs (Coordination and Facilitation)
1. Human capital development and poverty reduction.		MOES (PESS,& DESB), MOF, MOH, MoLSW	UNICEF, WB, Japan, Lux B, EU, WHO, Australia, ILO	Education Health
2. Levels of investment in human capital and skills development.		MOES, MoLSW	UNFPA, KOICA, EU, Switzerland, Japan, France, IOM, SDC	Education
3. Tackling rural poverty and inequalities		MOH, MoLSW	Japan, WHO, WB, ILO, UNFPA	Health
4. Determined perseverance to address food insecurity and malnutrition		MoES, MOH, MONRE, MAF	WHO, UNICEF, Korea, Japan	NR&E Health Education
5. Greater efforts to address UXO issues.		MoLSW (NPA) UXO Lao	UNDP, Korea, Japan EU,	UXO
6. Maternal and child mortality.		MOH	WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, Luxembourg, Korea, Japan	Health

## 2. Ideas for preparation of the 2019 RTIM

Description	Comments (in addition to what highlighted in the draft 2018 RTM Roadmap and Guidance Note) and linking to SWGs when applicable
1. Overall aim	
2. Key overarching theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include in the next RTIM an update of the implementation of recommendation of MTR of the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.</li> <li>• During the preparation of the next RTIM meeting and the next 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP make broad consultations including civil society</li> <li>• Migration issue (cross cutting)</li> </ul>
3. Key focused areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, strengthen dialogue among DPs</li> <li>• SDG localization at provincial levels, how to make the work more focus.</li> </ul>
4. Format	
5. Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vientiane Province</li> </ul>
6. Field visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be discussed in SWG</li> <li>• Thematic focus: follow up disaster management activities. Example.</li> </ul>

	Namnguem Dam for dam safety and flood prevention
7. Development cooperation and other related issues	

### **Group 3: 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 3 – Environmental Development**

#### **1. Follow up actions of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and linking with SWGs**

<b>2018 key discussion points</b>	<b>Key follow-up actions to be carried out.</b>	<b>Lead implementing national agencies</b>	<b>Leading supporting partners</b>	<b>Relevant SWGs (Coordination and Facilitation)</b>
1. Post Disaster Need Assessment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MoLSW to submit final draft to MPI for final review and thereafter endorsement by the Government (expected by end of February 2019)</li> <li>MoFA to organise press conference for the release of PDNA</li> </ul>	MoLSW MPI MoFA	UN WB EU	NR&E (and all 3 Sub Sectors)
2. Lessons learnt from PDNA and ‘Build back better’ principle.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dam safety review to be completed and finalised (MEM)</li> <li>Government of Lao PDR to decide and agree on the process for developing of a Recovery Plan in response to PDNA recommendations</li> <li>Action Plans to be developed and coordinated with line ministries in consultation with relevant SWGs (to form part of Recovery Plan)</li> <li>Finalization of the Disaster Management Law</li> </ul>	MPI (in consultation with all line ministries relating to Action Plans)  MOF MLSW MONRE MoEM	UN WB Australia GIZ	NR&E (and all 3 Sub Sectors)  All SWGs (with development of Action Plans)
3. Climate change adaptation and natural disaster management across all sectors and into all provinces.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Finalization of Climate Change decree</li> <li>Finalization of the Disaster Management Law</li> <li>Getting Lao PDR ready to access to Global Climate Finance</li> <li>Forestry and water management strategy (forest covers 70% target)</li> </ul>	MoNRE MLSW	UN	NR&E (and all 3 Sub Sector WGs All SWGs (with focus on recovery elements)

#### **2. Ideas for preparation of the 2019 RTIM**

Description	Comments (in addition to what highlighted in the draft 2018 RTM Roadmap and Guidance Note) and linking to SWGs when applicable
1. Overall aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Linking the recovery efforts to SDG localization, graduation from LDC and development of 9th NSEDP, to prioritize most vulnerable communities and leave no one behind</li> </ul>
2. Key overarching theme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recovery after disaster, with focus on most vulnerable (e.g. BBB, dam safety, rehabilitation of agriculture)</li> </ul>
3. Key focused areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation and response to the PDNA – that is disaster recovery action plan (and links to VDCAP, LDC graduation etc)</li> <li>Focus of disaster preparedness mechanisms (what needs to be done to strengthen immediate response capabilities)</li> <li>Improving green growth and quality investments</li> </ul>
4. Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focused on results-based outcomes</li> <li>Streamlined, efficient and prioritized (timing and finance considerations)</li> </ul>
5. Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In location relatively close to disaster affected area to allow for side visits</li> </ul>
6. Field visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Field trips to a disaster-affected province in south (to monitor the implementation of recovery progress), e.g. Attapeu Province - 1 year later</li> </ul>
7. Development cooperation and other related issues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Effective SWG and sub-sector working groups</li> </ul>

#### **Group 4: 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Cross-Cutting Outputs**

##### **1. Follow up actions of the 2018 RTIM key recommendations and linking with SWGs**

2018 key discussion points	Key follow-up actions to be carried out.	Lead implementing national agencies	Leading supporting partners	Relevant SWGs (Coordination and Facilitation)
1. The importance of the rule of law as the foundation for equality and development.	Should be combine shortly as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LSMP:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 3 &amp; 4 in one group</li> </ul> </li> <li>Strengthen System:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 5, 7, 8, 9 &amp; 10 in one group</li> </ul> </li> <li>Enforcement:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No 1, 2 &amp; 6 in one group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MOHA MOJ MOFA NA Court Others as relevant	UNDP EU SDC Others as relevant	Governance
2. Awareness of people's rights and obligations under the law and to strengthen institutional capacity for implementation	Add more the Technical and Financial Support and Public Support	MOHA MOJ MOFA NA Court Others as relevant		

and enforcement.				
3. Support to decentralization initiatives.	Add more the Planning and Monitoring			
4. Further strengthen participation of local communities and other stakeholders in poverty reduction.				
5. Gender equality, the advancement of women, statistical disaggregation and other vulnerable groups.	Combine no 8, 9 10 together In No 1 add more BTFE after CEDAW  No. 12 should move to No 17 for cross cutting (the importance the rule of law as the foundation for...)			

## 2. Ideas for preparation of the 2019 RTIM

Description	Comments (in addition to what highlighted in the draft 2018 RTM Roadmap and Guidance Note) and linking to SWGs when applicable
1. Overall aim	
2. Key overarching theme	
3. Key focused areas	Technical and Financial Support
4. Format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The same as last year.</li> <li>- Wider Audience as NGO/CSO + Panel list + Private Sector</li> <li>- South-South Partner</li> <li>- Government</li> <li>- Development Partners</li> <li>- Local authority /Province</li> </ul>
5. Location	In province especially in the North
6. Field visits	2 days : organize the Pre-consultation one day before in the province and the technical/high level Workshop for one day Back to Back ( 1 day)- Throughout the year SWG
7. Development	Exhibition one day on Public Views and Provincial Tour

#### **IV. Closing and follow up actions**

Key points and follow up actions as highlighted by the Chair and Co-Chair of the 2019 RTP Retreat are:

1. Stakeholders are committed to ensure better linkage between the Round Table Process and the Sector Work Group mechanism. To have substantive dialogue for better results and outcomes, it is important to hear from various partners as it will provide us different perspectives on development issues. Therefore, consultations through various platforms particularly meetings of chairs and co-chairs of SWG, meetings of SWG secretariat and the RTP secretariat, pre-consultations and other events play an important role and will contribute to the success of the RTM.
2. Given the success of the last RTIMs, we will need to work harder to take the RTP to the next level and make it more meaningful to meet the dynamic development challenges. Government and partners will need to continue to enhance the impact of development cooperation on the lives of people on the ground.
3. For the preparation of the 2019 RTIM, the RTP Secretariat will report all comments, recommendations and suggestions made during the RTP retreat to the National Steering Committee on the Round Table Process for further guidance. Themes and key topics, format, structure and similar issues will be decided by the National Steering Committee and communicated to all partners.
4. SWGs play a key role not only in preparing the RTIM but also implementing and monitoring the recommendations as per the PM's instruction. Therefore, it is important that the 2019 roadmap/guidance note and other related information is shared with SWG secretariats through effective and meaningful communication channels. Vice versa, information on SWGs and their key substantive matters will need to be shared with the RTP secretariat to facilitate effective cross-sectoral coordination.
5. On the follow up actions of the PM's instruction, work is still needed to re-word and re-arrange, particularly turn statements into actions and results which have clearer link to the 8<sup>th</sup> NSEDP. Therefore, secretariat of all SWGs will need to work on this and send their detailed recommendations to the RTP Secretariat/DIC for further work and finalization. Once done, we will use this follow up matrix to guide reporting and monitoring of SWGs. In this regard, there is a request for SWG Secretariats to organise their own discussions on key follow up actions. DIC/MPI could participate to discuss about the follow up actions which link to the Round Table Process.

## **Annex 1 - Agenda of the 2019 Round Table Process Retreat**

08:00 – 08:30	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 – 08:40	<b>Opening remarks</b> <i>H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment</i>
08:40 – 08:50	<b>Remarks</b> <i>Ms. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</i>
08:50 – 09:05	<b>Presentation on Follow-up Actions of 2018 Round Table Meeting’s Key Discussion Points, and Roadmap/Guidance Note for the 2019 Round Table Implementation Meeting</b> <i>By Mr. Sysomphorn Phetdaobuang, Deputy Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment</i>
09:05 – 09:35	<b>Plenary discussion</b>
09:40 – 11:10	<b>Parallel group discussions (4 groups)</b>  <b>(1)</b> –Follow up actions of 2018 RTM’s key discussion points (8 <sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 1: Economic Development) and linking with Sector Working Groups –Roadmap/guidance note for the 2019 RTIM  <b>(2)</b> –Follow up actions of 2018 RTM’s key discussion points (8 <sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 2: Social Development) and linking with Sector Working Groups –Roadmap/guidance note for the 2019 RTIM  <b>(3)</b> –Follow up actions of 2018 RTM’s key discussion points (8 <sup>th</sup> NSEDP Outcome 3: Environmental Development) and linking with Sector Working Groups –Roadmap/guidance note for the 2019 RTIM  <b>(4)</b> –Follow up actions of 2018 RTM’s key discussion points (8 <sup>th</sup> NSEDP Cross-Cutting Outputs) and linking with Sector Working Groups –Roadmap/guidance note for the 2019 RTIM
11:10 – 11:30	<b>Presentations from the four group discussions (5 minutes each)</b>
11:30 – 11:50	<b>Plenary discussion</b>
11:50 – 11:55	<b>Remarks</b> <i>Ms. Kaarina Immonen, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative</i>
11:55 – 12:00	<b>Summing Up and Closing Remarks</b> <i>H.E. Dr. Kikeo Chanthaboury, Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment</i>

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