

Closing remarks
By Vice Minister of Planning and Investment
Meeting of Chairs and Co-Chairs of SWGs
28th September 2020
(Please check against delivery)

- Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator
 - 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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- We have now come to the end session of our meeting today
 - First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for your participation and active engagement throughout the whole morning.
 - We have discussed and consulted each other on various issues relating to the key development agenda of Lao PDR, in particular, during this challenging time of time due to the impact of COVID19.
 - I would like to highlight a few key points coming up from our discussion today
 - **First, on the preparation of the Round Table Meeting**
 - The meeting to be organized early 2021 will be a Round Table Meeting and its focus will be on the 9th NSEDP which will be

tabled for final review before the approval of the new National Assembly session in 2021.

- For the Round Table Meeting itself, while we will be discussing and consulting on the 9th NSEDP, I would like to highlight that implementation of the plan itself needs proper think through and what supports that could be extended to the Government.
- **This will lead to my second point – the 9th NSEDP**
- I am glad that the current draft of the 9th NSEDP has shared with all partners. I would like to urge all partners to provide comments, suggestions, and recommendations based on the guidance that we have shared with you earlier and use the current draft version of the 9th NSEDP as a base for your comments and suggestions.
- Your comments can be shared with our MPI team in due course and please do not wait till the Round Table Meeting.
- We will need to work together to ensure that this 9th NSEDP is the most strategic one in terms of policy directions, measures, implementation and last but not least sound M&E framework.
- All Sector Working Groups have template that we shared with you in May and please provide your inputs to our secretariat for revising the drafty 9th NSEDP.
- We encourage all Sector Working Groups to organize your sectoral meetings to consult and discuss your inputs for the 9th NSEDP and preparation for the Round Table Meeting.

- When you prepare your sector inputs to the 9th NSEDP, please consider the outcomes of the COVID19 taskforce as most of key strategic policy recommendations are mostly cross-sectoral.
- One thing that I would like to stress is the need to prioritise among priorities. It is important to make smart decisions to mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak and foster economic resilience.
- Now, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Sara Sekkenes, the UN Resident Coordinator for convening **the COVID19 multi-stakeholder taskforce** and organising five different thematic dialogues.
- As I said, the outcomes of various thematic dialogues provide
 - A set of core assumptions about significant shifts in context with implications for the period of the 5-year plan that can be used to revise national and sectoral plans and targets including those relating to SDG indicators; and
 - A clear set of specific recommendations to be considered by relevant Ministries and Sector Working Groups, to complete the draft 9th NSEDP in light of the changing context and to inform the SDG localization.
- Therefore, I urge all of us to use all five outcome statements to guide how to provide inputs and recommendations for enhancing the 9th NSEDP and the preparation of the upcoming Round Table Meeting.
- I will stop here and before I end my closing remarks, I would like to highlight that all comments, recommendations, suggestion from today meeting will be summarized and submitted to the National

Steering Committee on the Round Table Process chaired by the Prime Minister for further guidance.

- We will keep you all informed how things are unfolding and what need to be done in due course.
- 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 special and heartfelt thanks go to all partners who have provided supports to us to cope with COVID19. Your supports are assistance highly valued and much appreciated. We are in this together and we will work together to overcome all challenges that COVID19 has been posing on us.**
- My sincere thanks to co-chair today, the UN Resident Coordinator, Ms. Sara Sekkenes and her team and all chairs and co-chairs of Sector Working Groups, sub-Sector Working Groups and other partners for your participation and active engagement despite all challenges that we have been all facing together during this COVID time.
- I officially close 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 9th NSEDP including the achievement of the SDGs and LDC graduation.
- Thank you very much for your attention.