

CONCEPT NOTE: 2022 ROUND TABLE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING

Background

- The Roundtable is an inclusive forum for discussing and exchanging views on the implementation progress of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) between the Government and development partners. Taking place every five years, High-Level Round Table Meetings provide inclusive forums to support the design and implementation of the country's national development plans. RTIMs are held every year to take stock of progress made in the past year and set joint priorities for the coming year.¹ The process includes 10 Sector Working Groups (SWGs), brought together under a chairs and co-chairs structure (national leads and international support to the leads).
- A High-Level RTM took place in November 2021, having been postponed in 2020 due to COVID-19. This was structured according to three broad Sessions:
 - Session 1- Taking Stock: Update on Progress
 - 2021 Voluntary National Review
 - Session 2- Looking Forward: National Planning
 - 9th NSEDP Implementation Arrangements including M&E Framework and Financing Strategy
 - Multi-Stakeholder Consultations on COVID-19 Recovery Plan
 - LDC Graduation Smooth Transition Strategy (STS)
 - Session 3- Thinking about How: Development Cooperation
 - Vientiane Declaration Country Action Plan (VDCAP) Mid-Term Review
- Following agreements reached at the HL-RTM:
 - The Department of Planning, MPI, has been responsible for leading the development of the implementation arrangements for the 9th NSEDP, in particular the Financing Strategy. The draft of the Financing Strategy was developed in close partnership with all relevant ministries and a broad range of development partners. It was validated at a High-Level

¹ [Round Table Process - Round Table Process Meeting \(rtm.org.la\)](http://rtm.org.la)

Structured Dialogue in September, and is in the process of final formal Government endorsement.

- The Development Research Institute, MPI, has been responsible for leading work on the COVID-19 Recovery Plan, building on the work of the Multi-Stakeholder Taskforce. Given the impact of the global Food, Fuel, and Energy crisis in 2022, the scope of this work was expanded to include response to new challenges and building resilience to future shocks through the development of a Lao PDR Resilience Framework. The draft of this Framework has been developed and discussed through several rounds of broad inter-ministerial and DP consultations.
- The Department of International Organizations, MoFA, has been responsible for leading the development of the LDC STS with UN support rendered through the UNSDCF output group on LDC graduation.
- The Department for International Cooperation, MPI, commissioned an independent review of the SWG structure, supported by UNDP. This review has been finalized.

2022 Round Table Implementation Meeting

Objectives of the 2022 RTIM

For the 2022 RTIM, this will be pursued through the following specific objectives:

- Report on progress in implementing the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) for the fiscal year 2022 and plan for 2023 including challenges encountered and efforts put in place to address them.
- Present the final 9th NSEDP Financing Strategy and seek development partner support for its implementation.
- Present the final draft of the Resilience Framework setting out immediate priority actions for 9th NSEDP implementation.
- Present the draft LDC STS developed by Government to broader stakeholders, in anticipation of opportunities for more detailed feedback to be organized in December.
- Present the outcome of the review of the SWGs and proposed way forward to strengthen alignment of coordination structures with national priorities.
- Given these new frameworks detailing how 9th NSEDP goals will be pursued, discuss how the Mid-Term Review of the 9th NSEDP will be carried out in 2023.

Date: 26th January 2023

Location: National Convention Hall, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Format: One full day hybrid meeting (17 Provincial Authorities and Non-Resident DPs attend virtually)

Theme of the 2022 RTIM: Accelerating the Implementation of the 9th National Social Economic Development Plan 2022 and Plan for 2023 for achieving SDGs and LDC graduation

Agenda:

Time	Session
08:00 - 08:30 (30mn)	Registration
08:30 - 08:35 (5mn)	Master of Ceremony (MC) Introduction By Mme Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General of Department of International Cooperation, MPI
08:35 - 08:50 (15mn)	Opening Remarks H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment
08:50 - 09:05 (15mn)	Remarks Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator
09:05 - 09:25 (20mn)	Presentation on Achievements of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) for 2022 and plan for 2023 H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment
09:25 - 09:55 (30mn)	Open Discussion
09:55 - 10:25 (30mn)	Group Photo/ Coffee break

10:25 - 10:45 (20mn)	Presentation on The 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan Financing Strategy (2023-2025) H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment
10:45 - 11:15 (30mn)	Open discussion
11:15 - 11:35 (20mn)	Presentation on Lao Economic Resilience Framework H.E. Dr. Sthabandith Insisienmay, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment
11:35 - 12:00 (25mn)	Open discussion
12:00 - 13:30 (90mn)	Lunch
13:30 - 13:50 (20mn)	Presentation on LDC Smooth Transition Strategy H.E Mr. Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
13:50 - 14:20 (30mn)	Open discussion
14:20 - 14:35 (15mn)	Coffee Break
14:35 - 14:55 (20mn)	Presentation on Way Forward of Effective Development Cooperation in light of VDCAP and SWG reviews H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment
14:55 - 15:30 (35mn)	Open discussion

15:30 - 15:50 (20mn)	Remarks Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator
15:50 - 16:00 (10mn)	Closing Remarks H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment

Participation

The 2022 RTIM will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment and Ms. Sara Sekkenes, UN Resident Coordinator.

Invitations will be extended to:

- Ministers/Vice Ministers from all Line Ministries, Vice Secretary General of National Assembly Vice President of Standing Committee of National Assembly;
- Vice Governors from 17 provinces (*Attend Virtually*) and Vientiane Capital;
- All Ambassadors and Embassies accredited to Lao PDR (Residents and Non-Residents);
- All UN agencies, Representatives of International Development Partner agencies and organizations;
- Director Generals/Deputy Director Generals;
- Heads of Governor Office and Directors of Planning and Investment of Provinces, Heads of Planning Section, and Heads of International Cooperation Section (*Attend Virtually*);
- Representatives of INGOs Network, NPAs and CSOs;
- Representatives of the private sector (LNCCI)

Structure

In preparation for the RTIM 2022, the following preparation events will take place:

- Consultation Meeting on the Round Table Implementation Meeting 2022 (28 October 2022)
 - Present the 13th High Level Round Table Meeting's Prime Minister's Instructions - 2021 and Concept Note for the 2022 Round Table Implementation Meeting in detail at a

technical level to support preparation by participants and make any final adjustments to the agenda.

- Technical level representation from all stakeholders.

- Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups Meeting (16 November 2022)
 - Presentation of VDCAP implementation and way forward
 - Presentation of Recommendations from the SWGs review follow by discussion among participants to reflect the implementation of Sector Working Groups

- LDC Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) Prioritization Workshop (18 October 2022)
 - Prioritization of specific objectives within the four agreed thematic areas of the STS
 - Technical level representation from line ministries.

- LDC Smooth Transition Strategy Writeshop (3 - 4 November 2022)
 - Development of the first full draft of the LDC STS.
 - Technical level representation from line ministries.

- Ministerial Consultation on Lao PDR Economic Resilience Framework (26 October 2022)
 - Discuss and collect feedback on the draft of Resilience Framework with relevant ministries, following revision of the draft after the Multi-stakeholder Consultation. (14 September 2022). The draft will then be finalized before the RTIM.
 - Technical level representation from line ministries.