

## **CONCEPT NOTE: ROUND TABLE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2023**

### **Background**

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- The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) 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. The process includes 10 Sector Working Groups (SWGs), brought together under a chair and co-chair structure (national leads and international support to the leads).
- The Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) for 2022 was organized on 26<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital in Lao PDR. This was structured according to three broad Sessions:
  - Session 1- Taking stock: update on progress
    - Achievements of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) for the fiscal year 2022 and plan for 2023.
  - Session 2- Looking forward: National Planning:
    - Financing Strategy;
    - Lao PDR Resilience Framework 2022 - 2025;
    - Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation.
  - Session 3- Thinking about How: Development Cooperation:
    - Way Forward on Effective Development Cooperation in light of VDCAP and SWG reviews.
- Following agreements reached at the Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) for 2022:

- The Department of Planning, Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI), has been responsible for leading the development of the implementation arrangements for the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, the Financing Strategy that was approved by Prime Minister of Lao PDR on 30 June 2023, the progress on Financing Strategy implementation and the results of the Mid-Term Review of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan.
- The Development Research and Training Institute, MPI, has been responsible for leading the 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 responses to new challenges and building resilience to future shocks through the development of the Lao PDR Resilience Framework.
- The Development Research and Training Institute, MPI, is responsible for the progress on the Lao PDR Resilience Framework.
- The Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), has been responsible for leading the development of the LDC Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) with UN support rendered through the UNSDCF output group on LDC graduation, approved by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR on 25 December 2023.
- The progress of the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) by the Department of International Cooperation, MPI.

## **Round Table Implementation Meeting 2023**

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### **Objectives of the RTIM 2023**

The 2023 RTIM will be pursued through the following specific objectives:

- Report on the Mid-Term Review of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP). In the meantime, the presentation will also integrate other key policy documents, including the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy and the Resilience Framework. The presentation will be delivered by H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.
- Report on the Voluntary National Review and LDC Graduation Smooth Transition Strategy. The presentation will be delivered by H.E. Mr. Phoxay Khaikhamphithoun, Vice Minister Foreign Affairs.
- Panel discussion 1: Economic and financial situation and way forward for environmental sustainability and resilient economy. The discussion will give an opportunity to draw on elements from the Mid-Term Review of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP, the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy, the Resilience Framework and Smooth Transition Strategy, which have chapters on macroeconomics, as well as the National Agenda and the Reform Roadmap, to inform the

preparation of the 2024 Voluntary National Review on SDG progress. Tentative panelists could be from the Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Lao PDR, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Development Partners (One bilateral and multi-lateral).

- Panel discussion 2: Human capital for sustainable development. The discussion will also give the opportunity to draw on elements from the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy, Resilience Framework and LDC Graduation Smooth Transition Strategy, all of which clearly refer to human capital challenges and investments, but also draw on other works, including the Human Capital Summit series, as well as the preparation of the 2024 Voluntary National Review on SDG progress. Tentative panelists could be from the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Lao Youth Union, Development Partners (One bilateral and multi-lateral).
- Report on the progress of development cooperation (The 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and RTP guideline). The presentation will be delivered by H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024

**Location:** National Convention Hall, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

**Format:** One full-day meeting

**Theme of the RTIM 2023:** Accelerating the Implementation of the Results of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Social Economic Development Plan Mid-term Review for Achieving SDGs and LDC Graduation.

**Agenda:**

**Morning Session:**

Time	Session
<p><b>08:00 - 08:30</b> (30mn)</p>	<p><b>Registration</b></p>
<p><b>08:30 - 08:35</b> (5mn)</p>	<p><b>Introduction of the Meeting Objectives</b> <i>By: Mme Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General of the Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>08:35 - 08:45</b> (10mn)</p>	<p><b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>08:45 - 08:55</b> (10mn)</p>	<p><b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i></p>
<p><b>08:55 - 09:25</b> (30mn)</p>	<p><b>Presentation on the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Mid-Term Review, the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy and Lao PDR Resilience Framework</b> <i>By: H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>09:25 - 09:45</b> (20mn)</p>	<p><b>Presentation on the Third Voluntary National Review and the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation (2022-2026 with a Vision to 2030) and Beyond</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.</i></p>
<p><b>09:45 - 10:10</b> (25mn)</p>	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>

<p><b>10:10 - 10:30</b> (20mn)</p>	<p><b>Group Photo / Coffee break</b></p>
<p><b>10:30 - 12:00</b> (90mn)</p>	<p><b>Parallel Panel Discussions</b> <i>There will be two parallel panel discussions organized.</i></p>
	<p><b><u>Panel Discussion 1 (Meeting Room No.1)</u></b></p> <p><b>Economic and financial situation and way forward for environmental sustainability and resilient economy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Panelists (6 representatives) (tbc): Ministry of Finance, Bank of Lao PDR, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Development Partners (One bilateral and one multi-lateral).</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Moderator: Development Research and Training Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment.</b></li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b><u>Panel Discussion 2 (Meeting Room No.2)</u></b></p> <p><b>Human capital for sustainable development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Panelists (6 representatives) (tbc): Ministry of Education and Sports, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, Lao Youth Union, Development Partners (One bilateral and one multi-lateral).</b></li> <li>➤ <b>Moderator: National University of Laos.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>12:00 - 13:30</b> (90mn)</p>	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>

**Afternoon Session:**

<p><b>13:30 - 13:40</b> <b>(10mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Results of the Panel Discussion 1- Economic and financial situation and way forward for environmental sustainability and resilient economy</b> <i>By: H.E PhD. Sthabandith Insisienmay, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>13:40 - 13:50</b> <b>(10mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Results of the Panel Discussion 2- Human capital for sustainable development</b> <i>By: H.E. Dr. Sisouk Vongvichith, Vice Ministry of Education and Sports.</i></p>
<p><b>13:50 - 14:45</b> <b>(55mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>14:45 - 15:00</b> <b>(15mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Coffee Break</b></p>
<p><b>15:00 - 15:20</b> <b>(20mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Presentation on Development Cooperation (The 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and RTP guideline)</b> <i>By: H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>15:20 - 15:40</b> <b>(20mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p>
<p><b>15:40 - 15:50</b> <b>(10mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i></p>
<p><b>15:50 - 16:00</b> <b>(10mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>By: H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<p><b>16:00 - 16:30</b> <b>(30mn)</b></p>	<p><b>Press Conference</b> <i>To brief on outcomes of the RTIM 2023 by:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i></li> </ol>

## **Participation**

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The RTIM 2023 will be chaired by H.E. Mr. Khamjane Vongphosy, Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.

Invitations will be extended to:

- 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 and Vientiane Capital;
- Ambassadors and Embassies accredited to Lao PDR (Residents and Non-Residents);
- UN agencies, Representatives of Development Partners and International Organizations;
- Director Generals / Deputy Director Generals;
- Directors of Planning and Investment of Provinces and Heads of International Cooperation Section;
- Representatives of INGOs Network, NPAs and CSOs;
- Representatives of the private sector (LNCCI).

## **Events leading up to the RTIM 2023**

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In preparation for the RTIM 2023, the following preparation events will take place:

- RTIM 2023 retreat and Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups Meeting (16 January 2024)
  - Presentation on the follow up on implementation of the recommendation of the RTIM 2022.
  - Presentation on the draft Concept Note for the Round Table Implementation Meeting 2023.
  - Presentation on the draft guideline of the RTP in Lao PDR.
- Pre-consultation meeting on Population and Housing Census 2025.

