



## CONCEPT NOTE

### ROUND TABLE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2024

Prepared by  
Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Planning and Investment

#### Background

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The Round Table Process (RTP) aims to create a vital space for policy dialogue between the Government and development partners for better development results.

High-Level Round Table Meetings (organized every five years) provide inclusive forums to support the design of the country's national development plans. Round Table Implementation Meetings (RTIMs-organized annually during the intervening years) take stock of progress made in the past year and set joint priorities to support implementation of national development plans for the coming year.

The RTP also includes 10 Sector Working Groups (SWGs), brought together under a chairs and co-chairs structure (national leads and international support to the leads) that gathers representatives from Government ministries and provinces at the highest level and all partners in development including private sector and civil society.

The Government of Lao PDR considers the RTP and Round Table Meetings as the most representative forum to shape policy options for the country's development. Therefore, the Government of Lao PDR is committed to ensure that the RTP meetings are result-oriented and that they are as effective and interactive as possible.

The RTIM 2023 was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> Feb 2024 at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital in Lao PDR. Key discussion points included:

- **Alignment of development planning and budget formulation to ensure the effective formulation and implementation of the upcoming Tenth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP):** This will streamline the process and enhance the coherence of development strategies. The discussion further focused on operationalizing the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy and integrating the medium-term budget frameworks developed by the Ministry of Finance into the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP formulation led by the Ministry of Planning and Investment. This alignment will facilitate a more efficient and coordinated approach to achieving national development priorities.

- **Utilization of data from the 5<sup>th</sup> Lao PDR Population and Housing Survey 2025, the Lao Social Index Survey, in the formulation of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP:** This is to ensure that policies and priority identified at both sectoral and local levels are informed by data and evidence.
- **Economic structural transformation:** This is crucial to address the root causes of economic instability. Key areas for reform include: (i) Revenue mobilization and expenditure management to create more space for social sector spendings; (ii) Public debt management; (iii) State-owned enterprise reforms; (iv) Contingent liability management through an improved public-private partnership governance framework; (v) Financial sector stability; and (vi) Business environment reforms. The implementation of these reforms is crucial but delayed, emphasizing the need for immediate action.
- **Improving public investment projects:** This could be done through enhancing the procurement, contract management and financial oversight processes, along with boosting capacity in environmental and social governance. Effective fund usage will be crucial post-LDC graduation.
- **Need to focus on developing potential economic growth drivers:** These include agricultural production, mining, energy, processing, service sectors, in an environmentally friendly manner. Developing these potential sectors requires improving the business environment to boost private sector growth and attracting quality investments, with a focus on enhancing competitiveness and fostering a conducive business environment for domestic businesses.
- **Human resources as a cornerstone for facilitating transformation:** This is centered on prioritizing investments in key sectors such as education, health, social protection and continuing to mobilize additional funding from domestic and international sources, while also engaging the private sectors to ensure sustainable financing for the development of human capital.
- **Disaster risks reduction for sustainable development:** the discussion focused on strengthening the implementation of disaster prevention and preparedness capacity, improving early warning systems, conducting risk assessments and implementing disaster risk reduction plans especially targeting high-risk communities.

The following agreements were reached during discussions:

1. Continue to accelerate the implementation of the 9th NSEDP and National Agendas in accordance with the direction set by the National Assembly;
2. Continue to integrate the SDGs and LDC graduation into the implementation of the NSEDP and strive to achieve the goals of the NSEDP by:
  - Increasing budget allocations for the development of human capital;
  - Developing laws and regulations to manage the economy and society;
  - Reducing the development gap between urban and rural areas;
  - Eliminating violence against women and children;
  - Eradicating poverty; and
  - Enhancing the competitiveness of the domestic business sector by creating a more favorable business environment;
3. Accelerate the implementation of the 9th NSEDP Financing Strategy;
4. Actively integrate the Lao PDR Resilience Framework into policy decisions to achieve the set goals;
5. Seek to improve preparedness in various aspects to deal with natural disasters by further strengthening the implementation of disaster prevention and preparedness;
6. Continue to leverage the use of data from the 5th Lao PDR Population and Housing Survey 2025 and the Lao Social Index Survey in the preparation of the 10th NSEDP;
7. Strengthen development cooperation through the RTP mechanism, adhering to the RTP Guidelines, implementing the work plans of SWGs, and upholding the commitments outlined in the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation;

## **Round Table Implementation Meeting 2024**

The RTIM 2024 will be prepared in line with the revised RTP Guidelines, and will take place under the theme: ‘Enhanced Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation to Accelerate the Implementation of the 9th NSEDP and preparation of the 10th NSEDP for achieving SDGs and the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation’.

**Date:** 14 Nov 2024

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

**Format:** One full day meeting with parallel panel discussions

### **Objectives**

The RTIM 2024 builds on the actions and agreements reached at the RTIM 2023. The RTIM 2024 seeks to:

- Provide an update on the priorities for delivering the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP in the remaining period of the current planning cycle based on the results of the Mid-Term Review of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP and provide an update on the development of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.
- Report on the results of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Voluntary National Review and the progress of implementation of the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation
- Provide a progress update on development cooperation based on the reporting on the 4th Global Partnership Monitoring Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and the review of the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016-2025).

### **Participation**

The RTIM 2024 will be chaired by H.E. Dr. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator in Lao PDR.

Invitations will be extended to:

- Vice Ministers from all line ministries, Vice Secretary General of The National Assembly, Vice President Of Standing Committee of The National Assembly;
- Vice Governors from 17 provinces and Vientiane Capital;
- Ambassadors and embassies accredited to Lao PDR (resident and non-resident);
- UN agencies, representatives of development partners and international organizations;
- Director Generals/Deputy Director Generals of Government entities;
- Directors of Planning and Investment of Provinces and Heads of International Cooperation Section;
- Representatives of INGOs Network, Non-Profit Associations and CSOs;
- Representatives of the private sector (Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry).

### **Debrief with the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**

In line with the revised RTP Guidelines, following the RTIM 2024, the Chair and Co-Chairs of the RTIM will debrief the Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic on the outcomes of the meeting RTIM 2024. Participation in this debriefing will be limited, with invitations to be circulated by the RTP Secretariat.

### **Draft Agenda**

#### **Morning Session:**

Time	Session

<b>08:00 - 08:30</b> (30mn)	<b>Registration</b>
<b>08:30 - 08:35</b> (5mn)	<b>Introduction of the Meeting Objectives</b> <i>By: Mme Sisomboun Ounavong</i> <i>Director General of Department of International Cooperation</i> <i>Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i>
<b>08:35 - 08:45</b> (10mn)	<b>Opening Remarks</b> <i>By: H.E. Ph.D Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of planning and investment</i> <i>Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i>
<b>08:45 - 08:55</b> (10mn)	<b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i>
<b>08:55 - 09:25</b> (30mn)	<b>Presentation on Achievements of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP for 2023 and plan for 2024, the results of the MTR of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan and Preparation of 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP (based on the result of pre-consultation meeting on the draft of 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP).</b> <i>By: H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment</i> <i>Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i>
<b>09:25 – 09:45</b> (20mn)	<b>Presentation on the result of the 3rd Voluntary National Review and the progress of implementation the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation, and the results of ASEAN Submit</b>  <i>By: H.E. Mr. Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs</i> <i>Ministry of Foreign Affairs.</i>
<b>09:45 – 10:10</b> (25mn)	<b>Open Discussion</b>  Interventions during plenary discussions will be limited to a maximum of 7 minutes and should be coordinated with the Secretariat.
<b>10:10 - 10:30</b> (20mn)	<b>Group Photo/ Coffee break</b>
<b>10:30 - 12:00</b> (90mn)	<b>Parallel Panel Discussions</b>
	<b><u>Panel Discussion 1</u></b> <i>Tentative theme (to be finalized after meeting of SWG Chairs and Co-chairs):</i> <b>Short- and long-term recommendations to address economic and financial challenges and support the achievement of the national vision for a sustainable, resilient, connected, and diversified economy.</b>
	<b><u>Panel Discussion 2</u></b> <i>Tentative theme (to be finalized after meeting of SWG Chairs and Co-chairs):</i> <b>Short- and long-term recommendations to support Lao PDR’s human capital development and realise the full potential of the young population to drive sustainable national development.</b>

<b>12:00 - 13:30</b> (90mn)	<b>Lunch Break</b>

**Afternoon Session:**

<b>13:30 - 13:40</b> (10mn)	<p><b>Results of the Panel Discussion 1- Short- and long-term recommendations to address economic and financial challenges and support the achievement of the national vision for a sustainable, resilient, connected, and diversified economy for short-term and long-term to address these challenges.</b></p> <p><i>By: H.E Ph.D Sthabandith Insisienmay Vice Minister, Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<b>13:40 – 13:50</b> (10mn)	<p><b>Results of the Panel Discussion 2- Short- and long-term recommendations to support Lao PDR’s human capital development and realise the full potential of the young population to drive sustainable national development.</b></p> <p><i>By: H.E....., Vice- Minister, Ministry of Education and Sport or Vice-Minister of Public Health and Other (TBC)</i></p>
<b>13:50 - 14:45</b> (55mn)	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p>Interventions during plenary discussions will be limited to a maximum of 7 minutes and should be coordinated with the Round Table Process (RTP) Secretariat.</p>
<b>14:45 - 15:00</b> (15mn)	<b>Coffee Break</b>
<b>15:00 - 15:20</b> (20mn)	<p><b>Presentation on Development Cooperation (The 4th Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and Result of Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (2016-2025) Review.</b></p> <p><i>By: H.E. Mme. Phonevanh Outhavong Vice Minister of Planning and Investment Ministry of Planning and Investment</i></p>
<b>15:20 - 15:40</b> (20mn)	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p>Interventions during plenary discussions will be limited to a maximum of 7 minutes and should be coordinated with the Secretariat.</p>
<b>15:40 - 15:50</b> (10mn)	<p><b>Remarks</b></p> <p><i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i></p>

<b>15:50 - 16:00</b> (10mn)	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><i>By: H.E. Ph.D Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of planning and investment Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<b>16:00 – 16:30</b> (30mn)	<p><b>Press Conference</b></p> <p><i>To brief on outcomes of the RTIM 2024 by</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>H.E. Ph.D Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Planning and Investment Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i></li> <li>2. <i>Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator.</i></li> </ol>

### **Events leading up to the RTIM 2024**

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In preparation for the RTIM 2024, the following preparation events have been organized:

- RTIM 2024 retreat (13 May 2024)
- Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups Meeting (3 October 2024)
  - Presentation on the follow up on implementation of the recommendations of the RTIM 2023.
  - Presentation on the draft Concept Note for the RTIM 2024.
- Pre-consultation meeting (if necessary).

### **SWG Engagement in the RTIM 2024**

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- **Development exhibition**  
Development exhibition will be organized as a side event during the 2024 RTM. All SWGs are invited to display their activities contributing to sustainable development and inclusive growth. The RTP Secretariat will organize a briefing session to all SWGs and relevant stakeholders at least a month before the 2024 RTIM to go through all necessary arrangements for this side event.
- **Field visits prior to the RTIM**  
SWGs are encouraged to suggest, take the lead and design field visits which are in line with the concept of the 2024 RTIM. As highlighted early, different types of projects/programmes (ODA projects, public investment projects, public-private partnerships, South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation and others as appropriate) will form the integral part of the visits. The field visits should be ideally organised at least a day before the RTIM. The RTP Secretariat will send out a letter to all SWGs to submit a concept note for the proposed field visits.
- **Press Conference**  
SWGs are encouraged to suggest, take the lead and join the Press Conference.

### **Focal points within Department for International Cooperation/Ministry of Planning and Investment**

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For all matters relating to the overall preparation of the 2024 RTIM, please contact:

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*Please note that updated information on activities, consultations and other related matters about the RTP including SWGs will be published through the recently revamped RTP website (<http://rtm.org.la>) on a regular basis.*