



## CONCEPT NOTE

### ROUND TABLE IMPLEMENTATION MEETING 2024

Prepared by  
Department of International Cooperation  
Ministry of Planning and Investment

#### **Background**

---

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 Chair and Co-Chair 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.

#### **Round Table Implementation Meeting 2023:**

---

The Government of Lao PDR organized the annual Round Table Implementation Meeting (RTIM) for 2023 on the 13<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at the National Convention Centre, Vientiane Capital in Lao PDR. The meeting was co-chaired by the Minister of Planning and Investment (MPI) and the UN Resident Coordinator. The 2023 RTIM was held under the theme of “**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**”.

During the RTIM 2023, the focus was on discussing the implications of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) of the 9<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED) for development priorities over the remaining years of the Plan and for the development of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSED. The event highlighted the importance of stabilizing the macroeconomy, investing in human capital,

and promoting sustainable use of natural resources. Emphasis was also placed on strengthening the private sector to drive economic diversification and create job opportunities.

The discussions at the RTIM 2023 departed from previous years' format by including two parallel panel sessions, focusing on key development issues, and highlighting the commitment to sustainable, green, and inclusive development, to provide a platform for open discussions on development issues among the Government, development partners, civil society organizations and the private sector.

The 2023 RTIM also addressed Laos' third Voluntary National Review and the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy (STS) for graduating from the category of Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Furthermore, the event covered the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and discussed the Round Table Process (RTP) Guideline. These discussions aimed to strengthen cooperation and coordination in development efforts.

Key discussions include:

1. The alignment of development planning and budget formulation to ensure the effective formulation and implementation of the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP. This will streamline the process and enhance the coherence of development strategies. The meeting discusses the need to operationalize the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP Financing Strategy and integrate the medium-term budget framework 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 development goals.
2. Prioritize and emphasize the utilization of data derived from the 5<sup>th</sup> Lao PDR Population and Housing Survey 2025, as well as the Lao Social Index Survey (LSIS), in the formulation of the 10<sup>th</sup> National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP) for the period 2026-2030. This particularly pertains to enhancing policies and priority plans at both sectoral and local levels.
3. Structural economic transformation 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 spending; (ii) Public debt management; (iii) State-owned enterprise reform; (iv) Contingent liability management through an improved public-private partnership governance framework; (v) Financial sector stability; (vi) Business environment reforms. The implementation of these reforms is crucial but delayed, emphasizing the need of immediate action.
4. Discussion on the need to improve the utilization of existing funds and implementation of the Government's projects by enhancing procurement, contract management and financial oversight, along with boosting capacity in environmental and social governance. Effective fund usage will not only attract more funding from ODA and the private sector but is also crucial post-LDC graduation.
5. Discuss the need to focus on developing potential sectors of the Lao PDR, including agricultural production, mining, energy, processing, service sectors, in an environmentally friendly manner.
6. Improve the business environment to boost private sector growth and attract quality, sustainable investments, with a focus on enhancing competitiveness and fostering a conducive business environment for domestic business.
7. Foster the development of human resources as a cornerstone for facilitating transformation; elucidate the imperative to prioritize investments in social sectors; Continue to mobilize additional funding from domestic and international sources, while also engaging the private sector in development efforts to ensure sustainable financing for the development of human capital.
8. Discuss the rule of law and promote a better environment for civil society organizations to contribute to the implementation of NSEDPs.
9. Seek to improve preparedness in various aspects to deal with natural disasters by further strengthening the implementation of disaster prevention and control work, improving early warning systems, risk studies and disaster risk reduction plans, and focusing on helping high-risk communities.

These recommendations were reported to the Prime Minister’s Office to form the Prime Minister’s instructions to relevant line ministries to implement the RTIM 2023 recommendations.

The RTIM 2023 concluded with the following next steps:

1. Focus on unlocking the full potential of Lao PDR across sectors such as agriculture, mining, energy, processing, and services while prioritizing environmentally sustainable practices.
2. Prioritize measures to broaden the revenue base by enhancing state financial management mechanisms, particularly through modernization efforts to increase accessibility and efficiency in revenue collection.
3. Enhance and streamline regulations to support effective state and socio-economic management, creating a conducive environment for attracting high-quality foreign investments.
4. Invest in developing human capital to serve as a foundational driver of transformation, ensuring sustainable economic growth through prudent budget allocation in alignment with annual government conditions.
5. Diversify funding sources domestically and internationally, actively engaging the private sector in development initiatives to secure sustainable financing for advancing human capital development.
6. Continue to accelerate the implementation of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP to complete the national development priorities as approved by the National Assembly, and continue to incorporate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the priorities of Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation into its implementation. This can be done through:
  - a. Ensuring adequate budget allocations for human resource development in terms of both quantity and quality;
  - b. Implementing laws and regulations to effectively manage the economy and ensure peaceful society;
  - c. Focus on reducing the development gap between urban and rural areas;
  - d. Eliminating violence against women and children;
  - e. Eradicating poverty; and
  - f. Boosting the competitiveness of the domestic business sector by fostering a more conducive business environment;
7. Increased attention to be paid to promoting the implementation of Financing Strategy to support the implementation of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.
8. Seek to improve preparedness in various aspects to deal with natural disasters by further strengthening the implementation of disaster prevention and control work, improving early warning systems, risk studies and disaster risk reduction plans, and focusing on helping high-risk communities.

### **Round Table Implementation Meeting 2024:**

---

The RTIM 2024 will be prepared in line with the revised RTP Guidelines, building on the discussion results of the RTIM 2023, and will take place under the theme: “**Enhance Partnership to Support the Implementation of the National Socio-Economic Development Plan**”.

**Date:** 14 November 2024

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

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

#### **Objectives:**

The RTIM 2024 builds on the agreed results reached at the RTIM 2023. The RTIM 2024 seeks to:

- Provide an update on the implementation of the 9<sup>th</sup> NSEDP priorities in the remaining years based on the recommendations of its Mid-Term Review and provide an update on the development of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP.

- Lao PDR’s Progress toward LDC Graduation and Outcomes of the Participation in the Summit of the Future in New York.
- Provide a progress update on development cooperation based on Laos’ participation in global partnership monitoring survey of the 4<sup>th</sup> Round of Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) and the review of the Vientiane Declaration on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (VDCAP) (2016-2025).

### Participation

The RTIM 2024 will be chaired by H.E. Ph.D Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Planning and Investment and Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to the 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 the Lao PDR (resident and non-resident);
- UN agencies, representatives of development partners and international organizations;
- Director Generals / Deputy Director Generals of Government entities;
- Director Generals of Planning and Investment of Provinces and Heads of International Cooperation Sections;
- Representatives of INGO Network, Non-Profit Associations and CSOs;
- Representatives of the private sector (Lao and International Chambers of Commerce and Industry).

### Agenda

#### Morning Session:

Time	Session
08:00 - 08:30 (30mn)	<b>Registration</b>
08:30 - 08:35 (5mn)	<b>Introduction of the Meeting Objectives</b>  <i>By: Mrs. Sisomboun Ounavong, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment.</i>
08:35 - 08:45 (10mn)	<b>Opening Remarks</b>  <i>By: H.E. Ph.D. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of planning and investment.</i>
08:45 - 08:55 (10mn)	<b>Remarks</b>  <i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR.</i>
08:55 - 09:25 (30mn)	<b>Presentation on National Socio-Economic Development Plan 2024 and Plan for 2025 and Draft of the 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP (2026-2030)</b>  <i>By: H.E. Mrs. Phonevanh Outhavong, Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.</i>
09:25 – 09:45 (20mn)	<b>Presentation on the Lao PDR’s Progress toward LDC Graduation and Outcomes of the Participation in the Summit of the Future in New York</b>  <i>By: H.E. Mr. Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs.</i>

<p><b>09:45 – 10:10</b> (25mn)</p>	<p><b>Open Discussion</b></p> <p>Interventions during plenary discussions will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes each and should be coordinated with the Secretariat.</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></p>
	<p><b><u>Panel Discussion #1 Sustainable Economic and Financing for Development Priorities: Short- and Long-Term Recommendations / Solutions to Address Economic and Financial Challenges and Support the Achievement of the National Vision for an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy.</u></b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ms. Shanny Campbell, Country Director, Asian Development Bank.</p> <p><b>Panelist:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr. Phailert Phoneboulom, Director General, Planning Department, Ministry of Planning and Investment;</li> <li>2. Mr. Thammaroth Rasphone, Director General, Department of Fiscal Policy, Ministry of Finance;</li> <li>3. Mrs. Fongchinda Sengsourivong, Director General, Monetary Policy Department, Bank of Lao PDR;</li> <li>4. Mr. Pheutsapha Phoummasack Board of Director, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry;</li> <li>5. Mr. Sebastian Eckardt, Practice Manager for Economic Policy Global Department, World Bank.</li> </ol> <hr/> <p><b><u>Panel Discussion #2 Human Capital Development to Support Development Goals: 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.</u></b></p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Ph.D. Mr. Vanxay Sayavong, Deputy Director General of Macroeconomic Research Institute, Lao Academy of Social and Economic Sciences.</p> <p><b>Panellists:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mr Sithong Sikhao, Acting Director General of Department of Planning, Ministry of Education and Sports;</li> <li>2. Ms Phonesavanh Keonakhone, Director General of National Nutrition Center, Department of Hygiene and Health Promotion Ministry of Health and Secretariat General of Lao Nutrition Association, SUN Country Focal Point;</li> </ol>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Mr Thiphasone Soukhathammavong, Deputy Director General, Department of Planning and International Cooperation, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare;</li> <li>4. Mr Somphet Chittavanh, Director General of Cultural and Social Affairs Department, National Assembly (in consultation with Ministry of Finance);</li> <li>5. Ms Veerle Smet, Head of Cooperation, The European Union Delegation (development partners representative);</li> <li>6. Mr Xaypaseuth Sounthavong, Student at Faculty of Law and Political Science, National University of Laos, also a member of Young People Action Team of UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Region Office (Lao Youth Representative);</li> <li>7. Mr Phouxay Thepphavong, Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (Private Sector representative).</li> </ol>
<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 / Solutions to Address Economic and Financial Challenges and Support the Achievement of the National Vision for an Inclusive and Sustainable Economy.</b></p> <p><i>By: H.E Ph.D. Sthabandith Insisienmay Vice Minister 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 Ph.D. Samlan Phankhavong Vice Minister of Education and Sport.</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. Mrs. Phonevanh Outhavong Vice Minister of Planning and Investment.</i></p>
<b>15:20 - 15:40</b> (20mn)	<b>Open Discussion</b>

	Interventions during plenary discussions will be limited to a maximum of 5 minutes and should be coordinated with the Secretariat.
<b>15:40 - 15:50</b> (10mn)	<b>Remarks</b> <i>By: Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR.</i>
<b>15:50 - 16:00</b> (10mn)	<b>Closing Remarks</b> <i>By: H.E. Ph.D. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of planning and investment.</i>
<b><i>The Round Table Implementation Meeting 2024 is officially closed .</i></b>	

<b>16:00 – 16:30</b> (30mn)	<b>Press Conference</b> <i>To brief on outcomes of the RTIM 2024 by</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>H.E. Ph.D. Phet Phomphiphak, Minister of Planning and Investment;</i></li> <li>2. <i>Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator to Lao PDR.</i></li> </ol>
<b><i>10 Sector Working Groups Secretariats from line ministries are encouraged to attend the Press Conference.</i></b>	

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

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 July 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.
- Meeting with Non-Resident (26 September 2024)
- Chairs and Co-Chairs of Sector Working Groups Meeting (3 October 2024)
  - Presentation on the progress of RTIM 2024 Preparation
  - Report on the Progress of the 10 Sector Working Groups Implementations on the Prime’s Minister Office Instruction of the RTIM 2023 Results
- Pre-consultation meeting leading up to RTIM 2024.
  - Draft of 10<sup>th</sup> NSEDP 2026-2040
  - Population Census

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

- **Development exhibition**  
Development exhibition will be organized as a side event during the RTIM 2024. 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 RTIM 2024 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 RTIM 2024. 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 throughout the year.

- **Press Conference**

Press Conference organizes right after RTIM, Sector Working Groups Secretariats both from Chair and Co-Chair are encouraged to join the Press Conference.

### **Debriefing session with the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR post RTIM 2024**

In line with the RTP Guidelines, following the RTIM 2024, the Chairs and Co-Chairs of the RTIM will debrief the Prime Minister of the Lao PDR on the outcomes of the RTIM 2024. Participation in this debriefing will be limited. The invitations will be circulated by the RTP Secretariat to intended participants.

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

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

1. **Mr. Santi SONGNAVONG**

Director Division

International Organization Division

IOD-DIC/MPI

Tel: +856 20 2222 3989

Email: [songnavong@gmail.com](mailto:songnavong@gmail.com) or [songnavongs@gmail.com](mailto:songnavongs@gmail.com)

2. **Mr. Viriya PHOUNSIRI**

Deputy Director Division

International Organization Division

IOD-DIC/MPI

Tel: +856 20 5655 9655

Email: [Viri.P9899@gmail.com](mailto:Viri.P9899@gmail.com)

*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.*