



# Lao PDR's Progress toward LDC Graduation and Outcomes of the Participation in the Summit of the Future in New York

H.E. Mr. Phoxay Khaykhamphithoune  
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
2024 Round Table Implementation Meeting  
14 November 2024

# Content



**01**

**Lao PDR's Progress toward LDC Graduation**

**02**

**Outcomes of the Participation in the Summit of the Future in New York**



**01**

# Lao PDR's Progress toward LDC Graduation



# Overview of LDCs

- Currently there are 45 LDCs
- Population: 880 million people
- About 75% still living in poverty
- Only 7 countries has graduated from LDC

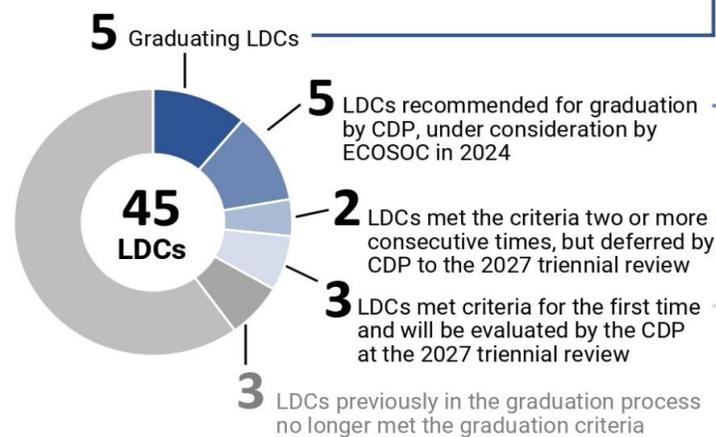


## The LDC category after the 2024 triennial review



- 7 Countries have graduated from the LDC category:**
- Botswana (1994)
  - Cabo Verde (2007)
  - Maldives (2011)
  - Samoa (2014)
  - Equatorial Guinea (2017)
  - Vanuatu (2020)
  - Bhutan (2023)

### 15 LDCs are in the graduation process

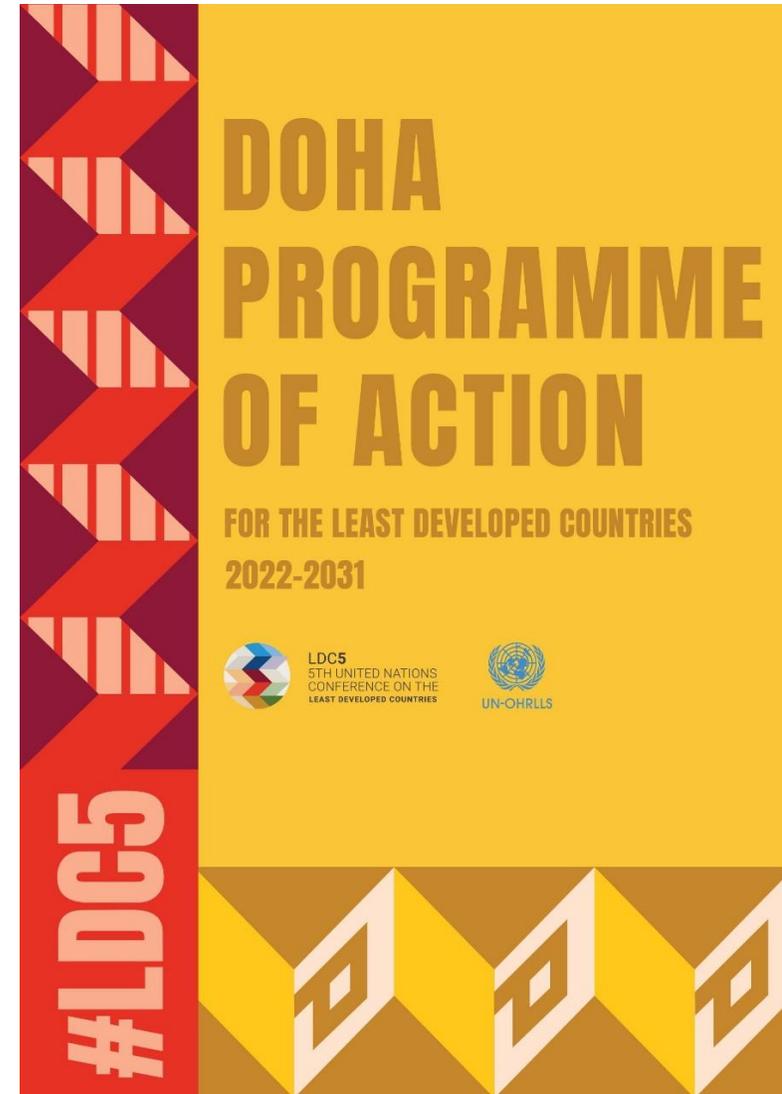
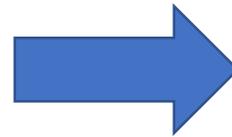


	Income	HAI	EVI
Bangladesh (2026)	✓	✓	✓
Lao PDR (2026)	✓	✓	✓
Nepal (2026)	✗	✓	✓
São Tomé and Príncipe (2024)	✓	✓	✓
Solomon Islands (2027)	✓	✓	✗
Kiribati	✓	✓	✗
Tuvalu	✓	✓	✗
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓
Djibouti	✓	✓	✗
Senegal	✓	✓	✗
Comoros	✓	✓	✗
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓
Rwanda	✗	✓	✓
Uganda	✗	✓	✓
United Republic of Tanzania	✗	✓	✓

<b>2024 graduation thresholds</b>	Income: \$1306 or above
	HAI: 66 or above
	EVI: 32 or below

Source: CDP Secretariat, website: <http://cdp.un.org>

# The United Nations Plan of Action for LDCs





# Lao PDR: LDC graduation review process over the past years

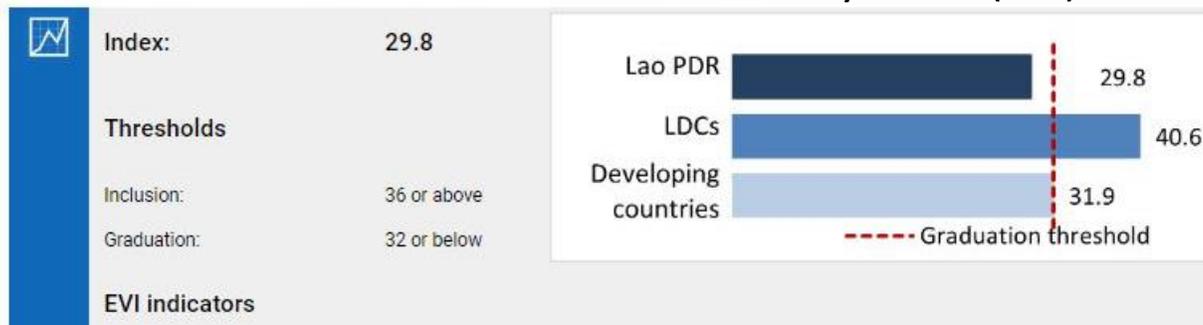
Table 2. Indicators for LDC Identification, Lao PDR, 2020-2024.

	HAI	EVI	GNI per capita
2020	71.8	29.8	2,268
2021	72.6	29.8	2,408
2022	73.7	29.7	2,511
2023	74.2	29.5	2,550
2024	74.8	29.8	2,503

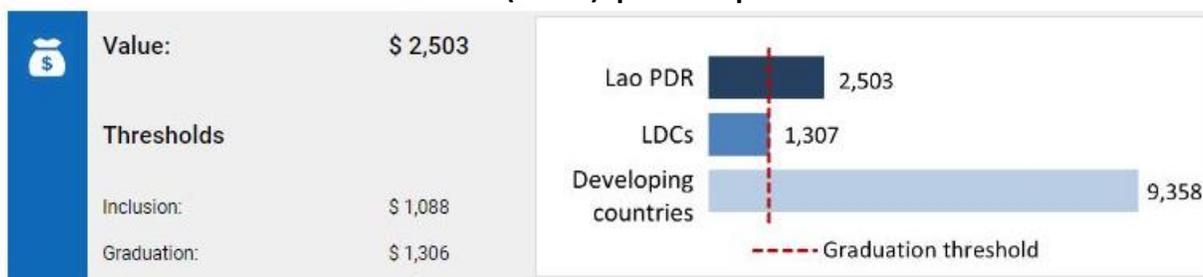
## Human assets index (HAI)\*



## Economic and environmental vulnerability index (EVI)\*



## Gross national income (GNI) per capita\*



Some of the issues highlighted by the CDP in its recommendation as priorities for a smooth transition from LDC category for Lao PDR includes:



1. Strong debt relief and improved macroeconomic stability;
2. Sustainable and inclusive structural transformation; economic diversification; regional integration;
3. Reduction of rural/urban and other inequalities;
4. Building disaster resilience and reversing environmental degradation.



# Expected impacts and Challenges

## Trade

- Loss of LDC-specific support measures on trade;
- Loss of certain flexibilities in terms of specific flexibility at the WTO granted to LDC as well as the Special and Differential (S&D).



## Access to Fund

- Limited access to grants and concessional loans;
- Declining of official development assistance (ODA) and climate finance.



## Cross-Cutting Issues

- No longer benefit from ceiling and discounts applied to LDCs in the determination of countries' mandatory contributions;
- No longer have access to LDC-specific support for attending official meetings



# Ways forward

1. Disseminate and raise awareness and understanding about the Lao PDR's LDC graduation.
2. Mobilization of international support and ODA, including access to LDC International Support Measures (ISM) on financing for development, social sectors, trade facilitation, climate change, digitalization, infrastructure development.
3. Coordinate with UN Agencies and Partners to closely review the Lao PDR's development trajectory through the Enhance Monitoring Mechanism.
4. **Jump start and accelerate the STS implementation with integration and monitoring mechanism.**
5. Closely monitor both internal and external factors and assess the Lao PDR's readiness in up-coming years, especially ensuring data accuracy and reliability.



# Ways forward



- For the Lao PDR, graduating from LDC category in a smooth, quality and sustainable manner has been a long-term objective of the Party and the Government, and meeting the LDC graduation thresholds has clearly reflected the Lao PDR's active and strong commitment to implementing the international agreed agenda.
- *Nevertheless, graduating from LDC does not mean that the mission to eradicate poverty will end and it does not reflect that people will be immediately well-off, but rather reflects a significant achievement and milestone in the socio-economic development of the country under the leadership and guidance of the Party and the Government of the Lao PDR.*



02

## Outcomes of the Participation in the Summit of the Future in New York

# Overview of the Summit



1. H.E. Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs, led the Lao PDR delegation in attending the Summit of the Future.
2. The Summit, titled: "Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow," was chaired by H.E. Philémon Yang, President of the 79<sup>th</sup> United Nations General Assembly.
3. Attending were heads of state from 73 countries, heads of government from 51 countries, deputy prime ministers, ministers, permanent representatives, and other delegates from the 193 UN member states.

# Purpose of the Summit



1. To accelerate efforts in achieving international commitments, including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
2. To address emerging challenges and leverage new opportunities.
3. To endorse Pact for the Future, supported by two Annex documents:
  - The Global Digital Compact.
  - The Declaration on Future Generations.

# Summary of the Document (1)



- Summary of the Document (1)
  - **The Pact for the Future:** Focuses on five major global issues:
    1. Accelerating the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through financial system reform.
    2. Preserving peace and maintaining international stability.
    3. Promoting advancements in science, technology, and innovation, alongside cooperation in the digital sphere.
    4. Protecting the interests of future generations.
    5. Implementing necessary reforms in the global governance system.

# Summary of the Document (2)



The two Annexes documents are:

## 1. Global Digital Compact:

- Governance and management of artificial intelligence (AI) and digital technology, with a focus on narrowing the digital divide and ensuring the safe usage of AI.

## 2. Declaration on Future Generations:

- Emphasizes the long-term needs and benefits for future generations in global decision-making, especially in protecting the environment and equality.

# The Contribution of the Lao Delegation



1. **On September 22**, during the plenary meeting, the Deputy Prime Minister delivered his remarks, emphasizing support for the adoption of the Pact for the Future and both Annex Documents.
2. **On September 23**, the Deputy Prime Minister also contributed his remarks during the discussion under the Interactive Dialogue 3: “Towards a Common Digital Future: Strengthening inclusive innovation and cooperation to bridge the digital divides.”

## Ways forward



- Notice from the Prime Minister's Office, Reference No: 2304/PMO, dated 6th October 2024, outlining the direction related to the reception of the UN Secretary General and the outcomes of the 79th Session of the UN General Assembly, the Summit of the Future and high-level meetings.
- Government:
  - Coordination with the Lao Mission to the United Nations to establish a working committee to support the graduation of the Lao PDR from LDC (Least Developed Countries) status.
  - To forward the contents and outcomes of this year's General Assembly to all relevant ministries for consideration in the current and future plans, in order to jointly prepare for the effective implementation of these actions.
- International: To propose for support from development partners, particularly from UN Agencies to ensure implementation and the achievement of these commitments.



Thank You

