

Opening Remarks
By H.E Mrs. Phonevanh Outhavong
Vice-Minister of Planning and Investment
Meeting with Non-Resident Development Partners to debrief on the
outcomes of the recent Roundtable Implementation Meeting 2024
and 10th NSEDP Road Map

11th February 2025

Norway Embassy 9:30 – 11:30

Dear:

- **H.E. H.E. Mrs. Hilde Solbakken, Ambassador of Norway to Laos and Vietnam;**
- **Mr. Bakhodir Burkhanov, UN Resident Coordinator**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen, esteemed colleagues**

On behalf of Ministry of Planning and Investment as well as the Government of Lao PDR, I would like to express my profound thanks to all of you for participating, despite your busy schedule, in this briefing session for Non-resident Development Partners supporting the development of Lao PDR.

Today session provides an opportunity for us to debrief on the outcomes of 2024 RTIM and the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030) Roadmap. The Government of Lao PDR in ensuring that the Round Table Process continues to be a rich and insightful engagement. The RTIM once again achieved this goal at the same time present you on concept note for High Level Round Table Meeting 2025 and exchange point of views with our Non-resident Development Partners on key issues that will determine development cooperation contributing to the development of Lao PDR.

The Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Planning and Investment will cooperate with UN to update in details on the draft concept note for High Level Round Table Meeting 2025 which has now scheduled to take place on November 2025 and we will keep our development partners informed on the news information via Round Table Meeting Website (<https://rtm.org.la/>).

Distinguished guess, Lady and Gentlemen

We will need to put all efforts toward mitigating the negative impacts of current shocks and disasters on our people especially in the Lao PDR and to better equip our national to be resilient to future challenges. At the same time, we will continue to work with our partners to address

various challenges and bottlenecks we have been encountering, for instance:

- Ensuring political stability, peace and social order to creating favorable conditions for development;
- Ensuring continuation of national economic growth with peace, stability and sustainability;
- Human resource development, focusing on the improvement of education and health service quality and quantity, developing labour skill that is fundamental to achieve SDGs and the LDC graduation;
- Rural development and poverty eradication;
- Promoting investment in commercial production and export to strongly promote domestic and foreign investment policies;
- Increasing effectiveness, simplicity, justice and transparency of public administration and local authority through enhancing the rule of law mechanism;
- Environment protection and natural resources are effectively protected and utilized according to sustainable principles; and
- Implementing policy on increasing regional and international cooperation and integration.

Keeping these in mind, the HL-RTM 2025 is an mechanisms and platform between Government of Lao PDR and Development Partner to discuss on key achievements made so far, identify lessons learnt and challenges and discuss the need to further enhance partnership and effective development cooperation to accelerate efforts or adjust programmes to achieve the desired targets in the last year of the 9th NSEDP (2021-2025).

It also gives us an opportunity to identify and draw upon lessons learnt to gain valuable insights and formulate recommendations for implementation the National Strategies such as:

- ✚ The formulation of the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030): Currently the Government (MPI) is in the process of formulation of the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030) in this draft there are 6 outcomes: (1) The economy is continuously growing, strong and stable; (2) Quality human resources and use of modern technology; (3) Enhanced well-being of the people, the society is livable; (4) Preservation of natural resources and environment; (5) Effective state management and administration, stable politics and peaceful and orderly; and (6) Regional and International Link and Efficiencies.
- In term of preparation of the 10th NSDEP:

- Review and consolidate comments from central politburo and plenary meetings of the central committees of the Party in March 2025;
 - Consolidate feedback from Development Partners on NSDEP and M&E Framework improvements in March 2025;
 - Present 4th draft of 10th NSEDP to central and sub-national government (with Financing Strategy and M&E Framework) in August 2025;
 - Present latest 10th NSEDP in October 2025;
 - Report on the achievements of the 9th NSEDP and present 5th draft of 10th NSEDP to the HL-RTM 2025 in November 2025
 - Finalize the 10th NSEDP (5th draft) and ready by December 2025 prior to central committee meeting;
 - Present the pre-final draft to the Standing Committees of NA in March 2026;
 - Present the final version to the new NA for approval (10th session) in April 2026.
- ✚ The progress of implementation the Lao PDR Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC Graduation (2022-2026 with a Vision to 2030) and Beyond:
- Disseminate and raise awareness and understanding about the Lao PDR's LDC graduation;
 - 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;
 - Coordinate with UN Agencies and Partners to closely review the Lao PDR's development trajectory through the Enhance Monitoring Mechanism; and Urgently implement and integrate, and monitor the STS.
- ✚ Population Census 2025: I would like to inform you that from now till March 2025, we must ensure that all resources, human and financial are deployed, that tools and infrastructures are ready, and that every citizen in Lao PDR is aware of the census and is counted. It takes concerted efforts of development partners and the value-added role and collaborative advantage of various sectors in terms of substantive, technical and financial support to make the Census a success.
- The 2025 Population and Housing Census is crucial for monitoring progress on SDGs, national development targets and informing the 10th National Socio-Economic Development Plan. As Laos moves toward middle-income status in 2026, data and evidence will be even more crucial for the government, the

market, and public services to make evidence-based decisions on the path to bringing about economic growth and impact while leaving no one behind;

- The 5th census in Lao PDR- as the first ever digital census- aims to collect data from circa 1.4 million households in 18 provinces within three weeks, using handheld devices, Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI), and Geographic Information System (Satellite imagery) technologies. The number of field personnel undertaking this massive task is estimated at 13,150 enumerators.

This briefing session is a good opportunity for the Government of Lao PDR and our Non-resident Development Partners to commitment our development and find ways for strengthening our development cooperation for greater benefits of our nation and partners.

I would like to acknowledge with full appreciation that our development partners are a strong advocate for development effectiveness and as such actively participates in the Round Table process and its Sector working groups. The support from all development partners is important for the development of our countries as sustainable development means exchange of skills, technologies and other related policies which are suitable for the future of Lao PDR.

Before I end my remarks, I would like to stress that the in-country Round Table Process has now been underway for 27 years. Since then, under the leadership of the Government of Lao PDR, we've seen the active participation of all stakeholders across government ministries and provincial authorities, development partners and other stakeholders including private sector, civil society and other to better coordinate our joint efforts across the country. I am looking forward to active participation and constructive dialogues for achievement of our national development goals as specified in the 9th NSEDP 2021-2025 including SDGs and LDC graduation and also develop and implementing the 10th NSEDP (2026-2030).

I will end my remarks here and look forward to our fruitful discussion bringing great values to enrich our partnerships and cooperation. On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR and Lao people in general, please allow me to express our gratitude and thank you for your on-going collaboration and kind assistance to Lao PDR. Your continued support will certainly enhance our government's efforts for the achievement of our national development goals including SDGs – most importantly, the graduation from the LDC status by 2026.

For more information you access to RTP official Website by this link:
<https://rtm.org.la/>

Once again, thank you very much.