Statement by H.E. Khampheng Saysompheng
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare, Lao PDR
At High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the
Asian and Pacific Decades, Beijing, 30 November 2017

Mr. Chairman,
Excellency, Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

On behalf of Lao government, I have a great honour and pleasure to participate the High Level Intergovernmental Meeting on the Midpoint Review of the Asian and Pacific Decades of 2013-2022, it's in lined with sustainable development goals 2030 and inclusive development of persons with disabilities. I would like to take this opportunity to thanks ESCAP and CFPD for organising this important event in Beijing, which is centre of economic and culture. I believe under your leadership, this meeting will bring a fruitful achievement.

Chairman and distinguished guests,

In order to fulfill its commitment to ensure the promotion and protection the rights of persons with disability, Lao PDR has implemented UN convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, convention on Cluster Munitions in 2009, Incheon strategy and Asia and Pacific for Decade of Persons with Disabilities 2013-2022. Beside, it has translated into national legislations, such as criminal law, law on labour, law on education, prime minister’s decree on the rights of persons with disability. It’s also implemented the national sustainable development goals. Now, government is drafting law on the rights of persons with disabilities to pass national assembly in 2018 and drafting national policy, strategy and action plan that would be adopted by government in beginning of 2018.
Lao PDR is the most heavily bombed nation in the world especially during the Indo-China war about 3 million tons over the country. It’s one of the causes of disability. According to national census in 2015, it has a totally population 6.5 million, including 160,881 persons with disabilities, and 80,115 of female persons with disabilities. 31 percent of persons with disability and invalid caused of cluster munitions or other unexploded ordinances (UXOs). Children are also main victims.

Chairman,

Before ending my statement, I would like to suggest some points to promote our cooperation, as follows:

1). International Organisation should continue a technical and financial supports to member states with promoting roles of persons with disability and poverty reduction.

2). Relevant organization should continue to provide capacity building to government officials who work on disability.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and thanks to friendship countries, international organizations, INGOs for the support to Lao PDR, particularly development of Lao persons with disability.

I wish our meeting come to a concrete achievement.

Thank you