Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Statement by

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At the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Under the theme: ‘Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: The effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solution in Asia and the Pacific’

Agenda Item 3: Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through voluntary national reviews

Bangkok, 21 February 2024
(Please check against delivery)
(03 minutes, 465 words)
• Mr. Chair,
• Madame Executive Secretary,
• Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, I would like to reaffirm the Lao Government’s commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the remaining period in line with its development goals and objectives.

2. I would also like to share the view that we need to redouble our efforts to accelerate the SDG implementation despite impacts of COVID-19 and various challenges caused by different crisis.

3. Having recognized the importance of national ownership and the follow-up mechanism, it is indeed opportune time this year for the Lao PDR to embark on the Voluntary National Review for the Third time to assess and present its national progress made in implementing the SDGs. It is also timely as the Government has recently completing its mid-term review of the 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, and together with the adoption of the Lao PDR’s Smooth Transition Strategy for LDC graduation.

4. We view this VNR process as a vital platform to share our unique experiences and valuable lessons learned from our endeavors to achieve the global sustainable development goals that align to our national development priorities. Under the close guidance of the National Steering Committee, the SDG Secretariat has officially kick-off the third VNR process in November 2023, and recently organized the multi-stakeholder VNR Inception Meeting to discuss the scope and priorities with the support and participation of the UN Country Team, ESCAP and relevant partners.
5. Taking into account our commitment to the principle of Leaving No One Behind, the third VNR is being developed through a series of consultations with different stakeholders at different levels, including a close collaboration with the UN agencies, development partners, civil society and private sector, among others.

6. With that in mind, the focus of our Third VNR centers on three key aspects: 1.) reflecting the national implementation of the 2030 Agenda and indicating steps to accelerate implementation, 2.) considering where the country is in the national planning cycle and the alignment of national strategies and budgets with the SDGs, and 3.) highlighting the main challenges faced in implementing the SDGs and providing strategies and way forward to overcome them. Moreover, it will review in depth of 11 SDGs and align with the UN Secretary General’s six key transitions areas.

- **Mr. Chair,**

7. As we find ourselves past the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda, we hope that our third VNR will bring about a platform to strengthen policies coherence and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnership for SDG acceleration. To this end, let me conclude by reaffirming the Lao PDR’s commitment to continue working with UN-ESCAP and all member states to uphold multilateral cooperation and partnership, and to accelerate action for a sustainable future of our country and Asia-Pacific region as a whole.

Thank you.