Building Agile Statistical Systems for Lao PDR Address
by His Excellency Phonesaly Souksavath, Vice Minister of MPI, Head of LSB
"High-Level Panel on a Whole-of-Government Approach to Building Agile Statistical Systems"

Excellencies and Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning.!

It is my honour to present today, along with excellencies and colleagues, at the 9th Session of the Commission on Statistics of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, together to discuss the development of agile statistical systems.

In our rapidly changing world, data has become a backbone of effective governance and sustainable development. Currently, the Lao PDR faces challenges in data systems. We see inconsistencies across sectors, data gaps, and a lack of geographic disaggregated data and timeliness needed for effective policy-making. These challenges affect our ability to monitor the National Socio-Economic Development Plan and track the progress of achieving the SDGs.

To address these challenges and build the agile statistical system, we are focused on three main areas, among others:

First, adopt a user-centred approach in our next NSDS by enhancing user literacy, data accessibility and value for everyone.

Second, apply innovation while strengthening the business processes—from collection through analysis and dissemination based on the different data sources. In addition, we will focus on creating a comprehensive coordination and collaboration framework between government agencies, regional, and international statistical communities towards data integration and dissemination.

Third, invest in human resources by enhancing statistical skills through training, innovation, and essential tools to meet development needs. A skilled workforce drives sustainable progress and informed decisions across sectors.

Take this opportunity, I would like to urge and welcome development partners and donors to continue collaborating and supporting capacity-building and the development of statistics in Lao PDR that comply with international standards to generate high-quality data for better policymaking.

I am confident that we can create an agile statistical system and bridge the gap by working and building together that is not only prepared to meet today's challenges but also positioned to capitalize on future opportunities and inclusiveness.

Thank you