Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Statement by

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At the Eleventh Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development

Agenda Item 2: Reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and eradicating poverty in times of multiple crises: the effective delivery of sustainable, resilient and innovative solutions in Asia and the Pacific – Looking Ahead to the Summit of the Future

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Mr. Chair,

Madame Executive Secretary,

Distinguished Delegates,

1. It is my pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to join the dialogue and share the view on this important topic. I strongly believe that the outcome of today session will help lay a solid foundation for us in reinforcing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and lead the path toward the future.

2. Today we are finding ourselves facing multiple crises and unprecedented global challenges which have clearly reversed our development progress and achievement made from the last decades. Following the severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in recent years, the major challenges faced by developing countries range from an increasing extreme poverty, external debt, and unjust international financial architecture to extreme natural calamities as seen in many parts of the world.

3. Against this backdrop, as we are passing the mid-point of the 2030 agenda, many countries are still facing various obstacles, especially vulnerable groups including LDCs, LLDCs and SIDs. It is timely and necessary for us to reflect our progress, re-energize our collaboration and reinvigorate our multilateral mechanism in overcoming these challenges together for peace, security as well as sustainable development. Therefore, my delegation is of the view that collective efforts need to be further strengthened like never before, especially in harnessing scientific and technological achievements to accelerate sustainable development and unleash new impetus for innovation-driven growth.

Mr. Chair,

4. It is evident that one of the key obstacles to SDGs implementation has always been insufficient and unpredictable financing. Therefore, building from the momentum of the SDG Summit in September last year which highlighted that a key factor contributing to SDG attainment is the mobilization of sufficient resources to address the significant development challenges we face. Consequently, there was a concerted call for a more equitable and functional global financial system, as well as the SDG Stimulus package, which would provide affordable long-term financing and expand contingency financing for countries in urgent need.
5. In this context, I would like to recall the Lao PDR’s strong call together with the international community for turning financing frameworks into action. This requires a comprehensive and inclusive effort from all stakeholders to bridge the gap between policies, strategies, and implementation, ensuring the availability of necessary financing. My delegation also appeals for enhanced support, and cooperation and partnership from our development partners to implement prioritized actions. These actions include finding sustainable solutions to our economic and financial challenges, taking into account our unique context and needs especially during the transition period of LDC graduation and aligning with our national agenda and frameworks.

Mr. Chair,

6. Let me conclude by reaffirming our aspiration toward a sustainable development path and further reiterating the Lao PDR’s unwavering commitment to closely work with all ESCAP member states to uphold multilateral cooperation and partnership in advancing the 2030 Agenda with the focus on ensuring a better, sustainable and equitable future for the next generation and the region as a whole.

Thank you