The Lao People's Democratic Republic

Remark by
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On Agenda Item 5 (a):
Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development
At the 81st Session of the UNESCAP

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Honorable Chair,
Distinguished Delegates,

1. At the outset, on behalf of the Lao Delegation I would like to express our appreciation to [ESCAP] for the presentation on the summary reports highlighting the recent progress made on the implementation of the ESCAP resolutions and the report on the APFSD. My delegation concurs with the main findings. Allow me to share some of our views in this regard.

2. The Lao PDR highly value the APFSD as an important inclusive and multistakeholder platform in enhancing regional cooperation, sharing experiences and good practices toward implementing the 2030 Agenda and preparation for the HLPF and implementation of the Pact of the Future. Additionally, we are of the view that the Five SDG round tables are crucial in facilitating regional multi-stakeholder dialogues on ways to accelerate practical action on the SDG that would be under review at the 2025 high-level political forum on sustainable development in July.

3. Last year 2024, the Lao PDR successfully submitted its 3rd VNR and greatly benefitted from this regional platform, particularly the VNR Twining Programme with Azerbaijan organized by ESCAP. The program provides us with valuable opportunities to learn from each other, and exchanging with colleagues from the Government of Azerbaijan and experts from agencies, including the UN, international organizations and institutions on crucial topics that are carefully tailored to our shared interests on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the national level, including on SDG localization, monitoring, finance, e-government and digital economy, stakeholder engagement with Parliament, Women, Youth and Volunteer, and climate change and environmental issue, among others.

4. In this regard, on behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Secretariat of APFSD and ESCAP for the support in organizing the Twining Programm. On this note, we encourage continued support from the Secretariat including sharing experiences through the VNR twinning programme, peer learning and provision of methodologies and tools for evidence-based and inclusive VNR.

5. Allow me to conclude by stressing that our endeavor for sustainable development future can only be realized when we put **people** in the heart and the priority of our

development effort. The ultimate objective is to ensure that we invest in the inclusive wellbeing of all people in society today and safeguard our future generation. I wish to reiterate the Lao PDR's firm commitment to continue working closely with all partners in areas of importance on financing for development, digital transformation and intergenerational equity, backed by inclusive access to technology, including climate action, the conservation of ecosystems in all aspects, and we count on continued support in the follow-up and future cooperation in the implementation of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Leave No One Behind.

Thank you.