81st Session of the Committee on Environment and Development, Economic and Social Council, UN, ESCAP.

Agenda item 3: Theme: "Regional cooperation for resilient and sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific".

Brief Country Statement from Mr. Nalongxay MYVAPADITH, Deputy Director General, DHUP, MPWT, Lao PDR

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lao PDR reaffirms its commitment to sustainable and inclusive development, as outlined in our 9th National Socio-Economic Development Plan.

Guided by our National Green Growth Strategy and the Sustainable Development Goals, our five-year plan emphasizes the pursuit of high-quality, stable, and resilient development across all human settlements.

With approximately two-thirds of our population residing in rural areas, while experiencing rapid urbanization, Lao PDR recognizes the urgent need for balanced territorial development.

This includes ensuring equitable access to affordable housing, basic services, and livelihood opportunities across both urban and rural areas.

We view climate resilience, environmental and social safeguards, and social inclusion as essential pillars of sustainable development across both the built and natural environments.

Our urban development strategy prioritizes the creation of vibrant, well-planned urban hubs along strategic economic corridors.

These corridors, such as the North–South axis served by National Road 13, are transforming our connectivity within the Greater Mekong Subregion and beyond.

To ensure that growth is inclusive and resilient, we are focusing on integrated approaches to land use, public works, and transport infrastructure planning.

These are complemented by regulatory and soft measures - such as improved waste management systems, urban policy reforms, and capacity building at all levels.

Lao PDR is currently implementing several urban resilience and smart city initiatives. This includes urban development projects under the Greater Mekong Subregion program.

We welcome further collaboration in accelerating the implementation of SDG11 on sustainable cities and communities, and in supporting the localization of all SDGs.

We call upon ESCAP to scale up its support in the area of strategic urban planning, to help countries like Lao PDR meet the ambitious targets of Agenda 2030 and our shared commitments under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Thank you.