

Statement by

H.E. Mr. Thongphane SAVANPHET, Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs of
Lao People's Democratic Republic, at the 2020 High-Level Political Forum on
Sustainable Development
(7-16 July 2020)

Madam President,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to express my profound congratulations to you and to all members of the bureau for organizing this year's HLPF during this most challenging time of COVID-19 pandemic. My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Groups of 77 and China, LDCs and LLDCs.

Madam President,

As we are entering the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has revealed our world's vulnerabilities and inequalities and threatened to revert the hard-earned developmental gains, to realizing the SDGs. Against this backdrop, we firmly believe that it is more crucial than ever for the international community to renew our global commitment in order to accelerate the progress of the implementation of the 2030 agenda, and help all countries, especially the most vulnerable ones, to build back better and be more resilient to future pandemics and uncertainties. In response to the negative impact of Covid -19, there is an urgent need for us to scale up and further strengthen international cooperation under the framework of global partnership, and ensure that sufficient resources are made available to support national governments, particularly in LDCs, LLDCs and SIDS.

Madam President,

The Lao PDR has streamlined the SDGs into the current National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2016-2020). Furthermore, to increase our national ownership, the National SDG 18 entitled “Live Safe from Unexploded Ordnances (UXOs)” was adopted in 2016 and the National Steering Committee for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda, chaired by the Prime Minister was established. In the same vein, National SDG Focal Points within all line-Ministries were also appointed in order to carry out their given tasks and take appropriate actions needed towards achieving the set goals and targets in all sectors concerned.

Throughout the last few years, all concerted efforts have been undertaken to implement the SDGs, and nationwide SDGs advocacy campaign has been launched. In addition, the National Roadmap for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda has also recently been adopted. SDGs localization and integration into various development sectors at both local and national levels, have also been key areas of focus. In this context, the National Steering Committee has adopted 238 national SDG indicators along with national logo and slogan, as well as a National SDG Advocate has been appointed to help promoting and advocating the SDGs. Another notable progress is the development of the National SDG Mobile Application which will be launched soon to serve as an important tool for providing better access to information and dissemination of SDG-related publications that outreaches the general public at all levels.

Madam President,

At the national level, the Lao PDR is now in the process of preparing the Second VNR and has formally submitted its request to ECOSOC for the country to be included in the list of countries to present VNRs in 2021. The 2nd VNR aims to present more trend analysis on selected goals and targets that are most relevant to our national development needs and challenges given the impact of COVID-19.

Madam President,

In conclusion, my delegation wishes to reiterate that while recognizing the importance of national ownership, global partnership is more critical than ever should we strive to achieve the ultimate goal of leaving no one behind. Therefore, the Lao PDR calls for enhanced cooperation, tailored assistance and support from all available sources globally in order for us to achieve the SDGs.

Thank You.