



## Programme

# **National Policy Workshop on Fostering Productive Capacities and Structural Economic Transformation in Lao PDR: Implications for Graduation from the LDC category**

*12-13 March 2019<sup>1</sup>*

*National Convention Centre, Vientiane*

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<sup>1</sup> 13 March will be devoted to discussions of points and sources of vulnerabilities of Lao PDR as part of UNCTAD's work on Lao PDR's Vulnerability Profile.

**Tuesday, 12 March 2019**

08:30 - 09:00 Registration

**Session 1: Opening Session: The quest for sustainable graduation from LDCs category: Policies and strategies for structural transformation, productive capacity-building and inclusive growth in Lao PDR**

*This session is intended to set the tone for the national policy workshop and provide direction for subsequent discussions. It will particularly highlight the objectives, expected outcome and implications of the workshop. It will also outline the principal policy challenges faced by Lao PDR in preparing for graduation from the LDC category and fostering productive capacities and structural transformation for sustainable and inclusive growth beyond graduation.*

9:00 - 9:20 Welcoming Remarks and Keynote Address on ***Vision, policies and strategies of the government of Lao PDR for the decade: Perception of the graduation process and support needed from the international community***: H.E. Mr. **Thongphane Savanhphet**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR

9:20 – 9:30 Introductory Remarks: **Ms. Kaarina Immonen**, UN Resident Coordinator, Lao PDR

9:30 – 9:50 Report of the technical level workshop held in August 2018: **Mr. Kanya Khammoungkhoun**, Deputy Director General of the Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR

9:50 – 10:10 Remarks: **Mr. Mussie Delelegn**, Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

10:10 – 10:30 Group Photo in the presence of the Deputy-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR  
Followed by Coffee & Tea Break

**10:30 - 11:50 Session II: Graduation from LDC status: background, expectations, performance, process, and implications for Lao PDR**

*This session is intended to set the stage for the workshop discussions by assessing the current socio-economic development situation of Lao PDR. The session will trace the progress achieved by Lao PDR towards graduation from the LDC category and numerous international development goals (MDGs, SDGs), and identify key factors that played a role in supporting this progress. The session will also identify challenges and obstacles ahead, as well as policy options for Lao PDR to address them.*

10:30 – 10:45 The role of export diversification in supporting Lao PDR for graduation from the LDC category, **Mr. Xaysomphet Norasing**, Director General of Trade Promotion Department, Ministry of Industry and Commerce

- 10:45 – 11:00 The role of trade, investment and development finance (ODA) in support of the graduation process of Lao PDR, **Mr. Sitthiroth Rasphone**, Acting Director-General, Center for Development Policy Research, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR.
- 11:00 – 11:30 Remarks by **Mr. Mussie Delelegn** Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, UNCTAD
- How does Lao PDR compare with other selected LDCs in meeting internationally agreed targets and goals including graduation thresholds? Challenges ahead and the way forward
  - Advantages and disadvantages of graduation - policies and strategies needed to maximize the benefits
- 11:30 – 11:45 How should post-graduation environment be understood and what domestic and international support measures are necessary? **Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert**, UNCTAD Secretariat, Geneva
- 11:45 – 12:00 Discussion
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 16:00: Session III: Policies and strategies for enhancing structural economic progress, ensuring broad-based and inclusive growth and building economic resilience: Key issues to be addressed by the Government of Lao PDR in the years ahead.**
- 13:30 – 13:45 State and levels of productive capacities and structural transformation of Lao PDR, **Mr. Moritz Meier-Ewert**, UNCTAD Secretariat, Geneva
- 13:45 – 14:00 Fostering structural transformation to reduce poverty in LLDCs and LDCs: Implications for Lao PDR, **Mr. Andrzej Bolesta**, Economic Affairs Officer, UNESCAP
- 14:00 – 14:15 What policies and strategies are needed to enhance the role of the private sector in economic resilience building, **Mr. Thanongsin Karlaya**, Vice President of LNCCI.
- 14:15 – 14:40 Remarks by **Ms. Nicole Moussa**, Trade and Poverty Unit, UNCTAD
- Sources of economic vulnerability of Lao PDR and ways and means of resilience Building.
  - Experiences of recently graduated countries with policy-implications for Lao PDR
- 14:40 – 15:00 The role of data and statistics in evidence-based policy making in Lao PDR for fostering productive capacities, export diversification and structural transformation, **Mrs. Phetsamone Sone**, Deputy Head of Lao Statistics Bureau.

- 15:00 – 15:15 The role of development partnership in assisting Lao PDR during and after graduation: **Mr. B. Murali**, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP
- 15:15 – 15:30 Preparedness and views from the Center for Development Policy Research on graduation and smooth transition strategy, **Mrs. Sisavanh Didaravong**, Deputy Director of Center for Development Policy Research.
- 15:30 – 15:50 Discussion/United Nations system support to Lao PDR during and after graduation - Technical advice to the Government of Lao PDR on graduation and the way forward **UNCTAD and UNESCAP**.
- 15:50 – 16:00 Summary of key points and the way forward (**Moderator/Chairs**)

### Day 2: 13 March 2019

#### **Technical level discussions on points and sources of Lao PDR's vulnerability.**

- 08:30 - 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 - 09:10 Opening Remark by **Director General of International Organizations Department**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (TBC)
- 09:10 – 09:20 Remarks: **Mr. Mussie Delelegn**, Chief, Landlocked Countries Section, Division for Africa, LDCs and Special Programmes, UNCTAD

#### **9:20 - 10:00 National income criterion: Progress of Lao PDR:**

The discussions will focus on policy implications of an income-related progress that will have resulted from significant changes in the relative weight of key economic sectors over the years. This takes into account the role and evolution of new or promising sectors over time has been a mark of structural economic transformation:

**10:00 - 10:20** Coffee/Tea Break

#### **10:20- 11:00 Human Assets Index (HAI)**

This will address the evolution and policy implications of Human Assets Index of Lao PDR: Challenges and prospects up to graduation and in the post-graduation environment as well as policies and strategies to address the challenges

#### **11:00- 11:40 Economic Vulnerability**

This will address the evolution and policy implications of Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) of Lao PDR: Challenges and prospects up to graduation and in the post-graduation environment as well as policies and strategies to address the challenges

11:40 – 11:50 Discussion

11:50 – 12:00 Summary of key points and the way forward by **Director General of International Organizations Department**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. (TBC)

12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break