

The Statement
by Her Excellency Madam Thippakone Chanthavongsa,
Vice Minister of Finance of Lao PDR to the Third Conference on
Financing for Development
Addis Ababa, 15 July 2015

Excellency Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed my great honor to attend this important Third International conference on Financing for Development. Let me join other delegations in thanking the Government and people of Ethiopia for the warm welcome and most cordial hospitality extended to us as well as for the excellent arrangements made for this important event.

Mr. President,

Since Monterrey and Doha a lot has been achieved, but challenges still persist for the international communities to join hands in overcoming them. This conference in Addis Ababa is crucial for us all to work out the means to overcome those challenges and go forward to achieve the ambitious SDGs.

Lao PDR highly appreciate the efforts put by those involved in the preparation of the draft outcome document. We fully support Addis Ababa Action Agenda and look forward to its earliest adoption.

Mr. President,

Financing for development remain critical in addressing the development needs of our countries. It should not undermine or replace the outcome on means of implementation contained in the SDGs.

Lao PDR is in the process of preparation of the 8th five year Development Plan. The SDGs are being integrated into this Plan. However, as a least developed country, Lao PDR is lacking in both technical and financial resources, the country's development is contributed significantly by ODA, therefore, there is still a need for the international community to continue their support to our development.

Excellencies, Ladies and gentlemen,

Allow me to convey our thought on some points of the agenda :

First, we see the importance of domestic resource mobilization and effective use to meet the demand of sustainable development. In this context, Lao PDR has undertaken reform our public financial management to improve revenue administration through modernized, progressive tax systems, improve tax policy and more efficient tax collection.

As revenue from Natural resources is growing, we have developed fiscal regime for mining and hydropower sectors. We will further our public finance reform and urge Development Partners to continue their support in this endeavor.

Second, ODA shall remain the main source of international financing for development, and we support that the main focus shall be LDCs, LLDCs, SIDS and MICs.

We highly appreciate the commitment made by developed countries and are deeply thankful to those countries that announced their higher commitment. We encourage the donors to increase clarity, predictability and transparency of the commitment delivery. At the same time, countries shall increase their ownership and ensure efficient use of the resources. Donors can support this by harmonizing their rules and procedures and gradual deployment of country systems.

Third, Lao PDR supports strengthening South-South and Triangular Cooperation and these shall remain compliments to the North-South Cooperation. South cannot make progress alone while they have significant barriers like resource scarcity, low technical expertise and other limitations. Cooperation of the North can remove many of these barriers. South-South Cooperation and its agenda have to be set by countries of the South as we call for the active involvement of all development partners and stakeholders. Towards this end, it is important to ensure that implementation and monitoring mechanism is put in place in order to ensure tangible outcome and win-win cooperation.

Please be assured of Lao PDR's active involvement in the materialization of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Thank you for your attention.