



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement

by

His Excellency Mr. Noulinh Sinbandith,

Minister of Natural Resources and

Environment of the Lao PDR

at Climate Summit,

New York, 23 September 2014

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Co-Chairs,
Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of the Lao PDR, I would like to commend the United Nations Secretary-General for his initiative on and successful organization of this UN Climate Summit, which we think is important and timely as we prepare for the upcoming UNFCCC Conference in 2015.

As a Least Developed Country (LDC), Lao PDR is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change with low adaptive capacity. We believe that any further delay in taking action to tackle climate change will only lead to greater adverse effects.

The Government of Lao PDR commits itself to low carbon and climate resilient economy and puts forward in our long term development vision “ *to secure a future where the Lao PDR is capable of mitigating and adapting to changing climatic conditions in a way that promotes sustainable economic development , reduces poverty, protects public health and safety, enhances the quality of Lao PDR’s natural environment, and advances the quality of life for all Lao people*”. In doing so, we are undertaking climate change mitigation through reduction of greenhouse gas emission as our key priority.

Lao PDR is pursuing for a reduction of emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+). In this context, REDD+ office has been set up under the Department of Forest Resources Management, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the National Oversight Committee for REDD+ activities has also been put in place. The Government of Lao PDR is also in the process of enhancing the Forest Law in which a provision on emissions reduction from deforestation and forest degradation is introduced to the Forest Law, which REDD+ activities to be undertaken in Lao PDR.

Distinguished Ministers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As the majority of Lao people rely on the use of natural resources, especially, the Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) for their living, we do believe that the implementation of REDD+ would not be successful if poverty is not addressed. Therefore, the Government of Lao PDR emphasizes the synergy between the sustainable forest management together and rural development Campaign. Currently, four demonstration projects have been initiated for performance based carbon finance. Furthermore, the private sector involvement in REDD+ activities has been piloted at sub national level, we have concluded investment agreement with

the New Chip Xeng Group (Honda executive distributor in Lao PDR), the local investor to incorporate the national protected areas (Dong Phouvieng and Xe Bangnouan) in a protection scheme. However, challenges to the successful implementation of this localized initiative remains considerable as it requires technical and financial supports.

For REDD+ actions to be effective, I would like to call on global collective effort to mobilize financial resources that are transparent, adequate, predictable and sustainable. These resources should include increased official development assistance, auctions of authorized allowance units, carbon taxes and other levies, private sector investment, Cap and trade market instruments, etc.

In conclusion, I wish to reaffirm our strong commitment to working closely with all countries in order to realize the ultimate goal of the Convention on Climate Change. I wish to emphasize again to all states parties to UNFCCC on the urgency of making a historic breakthrough at this summit to make the meeting in New York a very successful one.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.