



Lao People's Democratic Republic

Statement by

H.E Ms. Bounkham Vorachit, Deputy Minister

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, at the United Nations

Conference on Climate Change (COP24)

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Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations and appreciation to the Government of Poland for the excellent hosting of this important climate conference in this beautiful country.

Mr. President,

Today we are experiencing the increased frequency and intensity of natural disasters that brought heavy loss and damage to lives and properties of many people in different parts of the world. My country is no exception. This year, we have been severely affected by extensive flooding across the country in a scale that has never happened before in the history of our country. About 30% of the total villages in 115 out of 148 districts have been affected by massive floods that needs around US\$ 500 million for the work of recovery and reconstruction.

Mr. President,

Lao PDR has attached great importance to address the issue of climate change. We have set a very ambitious goal of reversing deforestation to achieve 70% of forest coverage by 2020. We are among the group of countries who earlier signed the Paris Agreement. In addition, early this month, Lao PDR has ratified the Doha Amendment.

To put our commitment into action, the Government is taking the initiative on mitigation and adaptation seriously. Climate change and disasters law is being finalized as a legal framework to enhance the resilience of our infrastructures, cities and livelihoods. National adaptation planning processes are also under development and the green growth policy has been adopted and being developed into national strategy and action plan.

With regard to the implementation of the NDC, we have achieved significant progress in many aspects. We have been working closely with development partners to mobilize resources to invest in adaptation efforts.

Mr. President

It is widely acknowledged that technology transfer, access to climate funding and capacity building for developing countries, particularly, least developed countries are the key factors should we to achieve our noble target of reducing greenhouse gasses emission. Furthermore, the ownership and the engagement of all sectors within the society are also critical. Private sector, in particular, which is a significant engine for driving economic growth must be involved actively.

Nonetheless, political will and commitment from all the countries in the world, whether a big or small, developed or developing must be at the fore front, to drive the wheel for achieving our world for a green and sustainable development.

For its part, Lao PDR reiterates our commitment to a common sustainable future.

I thank you.