



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Statement by
H.E. Bounkham Vorachit
Minister of Natural Resources and Environment
at the High-level Segment of the
United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP28)

9th December 2023
Dubai, the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates,

At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao PDR, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to the Government of the United Arab Emirates for the hosting COP28 with excellent arrangements.

Mr. President,

Given the many pressing challenges of climate change, it is more crucial than ever that the international community must renew global commitment and further enhance cooperation, collaboration and partnership to address climate change and to support developing countries, especially the LDC to be more resilient and move towards a low-carbon economy.

Since the first Global Stocktake (GST) assessment, has showed that we are not on track to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. Therefore, we need to redouble our efforts to take climate actions forward in the right direction. We also urge the international community to realize the international commitment, particularly \$100 billion in climate finance and to double adaptation finance for addressing loss and damage and other associated expenses and for meeting the global climate challenge.

In this connection, the Lao PDR welcomes the recent adoption of a decision that operationalizes the loss and damage fund and looks forward to its effective implementation.

Mr. President,

Although the Lao PDR is amongst the countries who contribute the least to global emission, like others we are the victims of climate change. Nevertheless, we are strongly committed ourselves to the international climate obligations. The Lao Government has developed and incorporated a series of policies and actions related to climate change into the country's development plans and strategies such as updated NDC and revised National Climate Change Strategy, developing Low Emission Development Strategy, Carbon Market Decree as well as National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

In order to ensure the full and effective implementation of those plans and strategies, we need sufficient financial resources, technical assistance, better access to climate finance as well as affordable and appropriate technology and innovations.

Mr. President,

At the regional level, the Lao PDR will carry out its ASEAN Chairmanship in 2024 under the theme “ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience”. One of priority areas would be promoting environmental cooperation with a focus on climate resilience; biodiversity conservation, and; sustainable management of natural resources and cities among others.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by reaffirming our commitment to the ambitious goals of the Paris Agreement and by stressing the importance of stronger international cooperation and collaboration on addressing climate change. I believe that, with our collective efforts and genuine partnership, we can accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy and climate-resilient future.

I thank you.