

**Intervention**

**Of**

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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, I would like to join the previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as chairman of this important session on the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. My delegation is confident that under your constructive guidance and leadership, the meeting will yield fruitful results. May I also express our appreciation and thanks to the UNISDR secretariat for the excellent arrangements and organization of the meeting.

Mr. Chairman,

The issue of natural hazards and human made disaster continue to devastate human life in the world every minute, the most vulnerable to these disasters being developing countries and the least developed ones among them. Like other countries, the Lao PDR is also vulnerable to recurrent natural disasters such as floods and droughts.

Given our country’s high vulnerability to natural disasters, the Government of the Lao PDR always pays a great attention to the issue of disaster risk reduction and the implementation of HFA on DRR.

And due to the time constraints, the following will be only a brief overview of the recent key achievements in terms of DRR and DRM, while much more has been done and you may refer to the HFA Report for more comprehensive information.

Pursuant to the Prime Minister decree No. 158, the Lao Government established the National Disaster Management Committee (NDMC) as its national disaster management platform, the multi-sectoral preparedness and response coordination body for Lao PDR. The National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) under this decree was established to responsible for DRM and DRR activities in the country as the secretariat for NDMC. In support of the DRR/DRM efforts, the Inter agency Standing Committee (IASC), composed of Government; UN agencies, Red Cross organisations; INGOs; and donors, was established to support the national disaster management platform and coordinate emergency action.

In addition, drawing from the lessons learned in terms of disaster preparedness from the implementation of the 6th National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSEDP 2006-2010), the 7th NSEDP (2011-2015) goes a step further and addresses the key DRR target areas of improving quality governance, laws & regulations enforcement, early warning system enhancement, disaster information management, social protection, climate change mitigation and environmental protection.

By implementing the National Strategy Plan on DRM as well as the HFA, the Lao Government has made significant progress on risk identification. A comprehensive national Multi Hazard Risk and Hazard Assessment has been completed, which will assist not only the Government but also all DRR stakeholders to plan their interventions. Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Risk Management have been integrated into key development sectors with the aim to reduce risk factors and build a safety culture and resilience at all levels. Community Based Disaster Risk Management and DRR had initiated in the disaster prone areas at local and community levels. DRR has been mainstreamed into curriculum of primary and secondary schools in 8 provinces; the “Hospitals Safe from Disaster” initiative was conducted in 17 provinces. DRR and DRM workshops and trainings have been conducted widely for Government officials mainly the members of disaster management committee from national to the local and community levels. The awareness raisings on DRR and DRM as well as the early warning and weather forecasting have been widely initiated for communities at all levels.

Various projects have been initiated under the NAPA Framework to prepare and enhance the capacity of rural farmers to adapt to climate changes and associated natural disasters. The key components of the projects are:

1. capacity building for local agriculture extension officers and farmers living in the natural hazard prone areas, on land management, diversity of crop and animal species.
2. Research and promotion of diversity of crop varieties and animal species that are adapted to the stressful environmental conditions;
3. Training of farmers on food processing and storing of human and animal food stuff.

In closing, on behalf of the government of the Lao PDR, I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to friendly countries, donors, UN agencies and NGOs for their continuous financial and technical supports to our country in a range of disaster risk reduction and development issues. We look forward to continuing receiving technical and financial assistance from the international community to mitigate risks and reduce vulnerability of Lao PDR and Lao people to natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

**Thank you for your attention.**