

Remarks in Opening Session

Symposium on “Effective Governance and Digital Transformation for Accelerating Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Addressing Global Challenges” on 22 – 24 November 2022

Delivered by Mr. Nisith Keopanya, Vice Minister of MOHA, Lao PDR

Respect:

- H.E. Li Junhua, United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs
- H.E. Sang-min Lee, Minister of Interior and Safety, Republic of Korea
- H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, 8th United Nations Secretary-General
- H.E. Jeongbok Yoo, Mayor, Incheon Metropolitan City, Republic of Korea
- Mr. Kyuchang Ko, Head of United Nations Project Office on Governance
- Representatives of the Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Vanuatu, and Malawi
- Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a great honor for me, on behalf of the Lao government to participate in the **High-level Opening Session** of today symposium and we really appreciate for your warm welcome. I myself would like to thank you very much to the UNPOG for inviting me to this symposium as my second time for this important event in the same place as Songdo Convensia in the Incheon Metropolitan City where were organized in November 2019.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very glade to be here again with you all.

For my remark today, I would like to begin by introducing the brief background of the governance reform in Laos regarding to the Effective Governance and Digital Transformation. For effective governance, Lao government has strong effort to improve the public service delivery system by introducing the One Stop Shop model, as in Laos we call One Door Service Center (ODSC). ODSC is one

example that deliver effective services and create more accessibility for the citizens. However, for more effective and faster service, ODSC is required to be more digitalized. Therefore, due to previous reason SMART ODSC were established to transform the traditional working system to a more digitalized in the public sector, which is supported by UNDESA, UNPOG and UNDP.

In this regard, I would like to appreciate UNDESA and UNPOG for your support to the SMART ODSC in Laos.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To accelerate implementation of Sustainable Development by 2030 agenda, Digital Transformation is increasingly and widely required in the public sector and in the society. However, we are also facing some challenges, such as:

- Firstly, the technology has developed rapidly, but in my country Laos, the many people is still limited capacity to catchup the development of that technology, and the government officials themselves also are facing the difficult of using the new applications of technology, particularly in the rural districts.
- Secondly, the infrastructure of technology based is still not enough in a crossed the country, especially in the remote areas.
- Thirdly, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, we are facing the negative impact to the economics of the country.

Those are the challenges that we are facing righty now.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Because of time is limited, so I would end my remark here, and will discuss more during my presentation in the afternoon.

Finally, I would like to congratulate United Nations Project Office on Governance and Ministry of Interior and Safety of the Republic of Korea, and relevant organizations for hosting this meaningful event.

Thank you very much