

**Official Country Statements on Climate Change**  
**European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA)'s Regional**  
**Conference for Asia on 30-31 May 2010, Dhaka, Bangladesh**

Mr. Chairman,

Excellencies Ministerial

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of Lao delegation and Mme Khempheng POLSENA, Minister to Prime Minister's Office, Head of Water Resources and Environment Administration. Who is supposed to be here in this conference, but because she has to carry out an unforeseeable and urgent task during this period of time, I would like to take this opportunity to deliver her statement as follow:

Mr. Chairman,

We recognize that our world is changing, and that it is changing fast. More importantly, and central to this discussion, is the changing nature of our world due to climate change and that **climate change is real. It is not fiction. And it threatens our lives and the lives of everyone on this planet**, in particular the poor and disadvantaged are hit the hardest.

It is an undeniable fact that climate change affects the entire Earth, We have witnessed an increasing number of natural disasters around the world in the past years with developing countries being struck the hardest. As a matter of fact, Lao PDR has experienced an exponential increase of unexpected and extreme weather conditions like floods and droughts every year as reflected by the worst in the country's history of climate records August 2008 flooding and October 2009 Ketsana Typhoon in the south of Lao PDR causing devastating losses in the

affected areas. According to scientific evidence this situation is predicted to worsen.

Mr. Chairman,

In 2009, the Government of Lao PDR, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and through multi-stakeholder participation, formulated the National Adaptation Plan for Action (NAPA), which is designed to be a country-driven program to address the immediate needs related to current and projected adverse effects of climate change on key sectors in the country that are agriculture, forestry, water resources and human health. At present we are preparing SNC. May I take this opportunity to inform you that in response to the diverse challenges of Climate Change that we are facing, the Government of Lao PDR has recently approved the National Strategy on Climate Change with the vision "to secure a future where Laos 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".

The strategy on Climate Change has recognized the high vulnerability of the Lao PDR to Climate Change, the anticipated adverse environmental and socio-economic consequences, especially to the poor and the most vulnerable (including women and children) and also the need for strengthening the capacity to adapt to climate change and its impacts.

While on adaptation the focus will be on making the key sectors including agriculture, water resources and forestry more climate resilient, enhancing knowledge and awareness on climate change, enforcing the conservation of National Protected Areas, building reliable early warning systems and addressing population issues linked with climate on the other hand, mitigation will address three priorities: firstly- the sustainable management of water, land and forestry resources with emphasis on achieving the ambitious target of 70% forestry coverage of the national territory by 2020; secondly- the sustainable development of our abundant hydropower potential and other forms of renewable energy with Lao PDR being one of the few countries in the world that generates all of its electricity from hydropower, primarily a green source and thirdly - the

improvement of energy efficiency and energy saving in industry, buildings and transport. In addition we are also strengthening our capacities to implement and promote CDM projects and to prepare for implementation of the REDD-plus.

The National Strategy on Climate Change will be updated on a regular basis to integrate changes as a country's social and environmental responsibility is continually challenged. May I take this opportunity to convey the appreciation of our Government to donor community including bilateral and multilateral and financial institution for the valuable support to our effort to address the challenge of climate change.

Mr. Chairman,

To conclude let me once again thank the organizers for giving me this unique opportunity to share my thoughts in this meeting of great minds. I am confident that your deliberations on this very important issue will be very productive and will translate into policies in your respective countries.

Thank you