

Remarks of H.E Dr. Khampheng SAYSOMPHENG  
Minister of Labour and Social Welfare of Lao People's Democratic Republic  
the 108<sup>th</sup> Session International Labour Conference,  
Geneva, 18<sup>th</sup> June 2019

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Excellency Chairperson,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I have the great honor to represent the government of Lao People's Democratic Republic to deliver remarks at the 108<sup>th</sup> Session of International Labour Conference which is a significantly important event as it is one hundred years anniversary of founding the International Labour Organisation. This shows a great achievement made by ILO over hundred years on protecting the rights and benefits of both employees and employers through strengthening collaboration and coordination with partners, improving and making relevant administrations, conventions, recommendations and declarations over the period.

On this meaningful occasion, I would like to express my support to the ILO Director General's report which is a very comprehensive and expressive on the Work for a Brighter Future. This is a very much relevant to the Social and Economic Development of ILO member countries, promotion for tripartite cooperation, skill development, employment promotion and accessing to labour market, social protection and proper investment for human resource development.

My sincere congratulation is also to Mr. Chairman for being selected as the Chair of the 108 Session of International Labour Conference and I have a strong believe that under your chairmanship this conference will bring about the great achievement.

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman, distinguished ladies and gentlemen,

I would like to share with you the progresses and experiences of Lao PDR with a focus of implementing the 4<sup>th</sup> Five-Year-Labour and Social Welfare Development Plan from 2015-2020 in line with the 8<sup>th</sup> Five-Year National Social Economic Development Plan. We also ensure the implementation of both plans are really interconnected with the Sustainable Development Goals-2030, in particularly Goal No. 1 that calls for “an end poverty in all its forms” in line with developing the social protection system and Goal No. 8 promoting Decent Work for All, including effective employment and inclusive growth with sustainability. After the endorsement of Law on Labour and Law on Social Security, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare has developed a number of legislations under the laws, for instance, the Prime Minister Decree on Labour Disputes Resolutions, PM Decree on Occupational Safety and Health. Moreover, Lao government has been actively collaborating with tripartite institutions and international development partners in implementing the decent work programs (2017-2021) including the promotion of skill development and employment in line with enhancing social protection system and strengthening cooperation with tripartite partners and others.

In addition, the Lao PDR has developed the strategic plan on rural employment and strategic plan on social protection. The two plans response to the human resource development and poverty reduction through decent employment for rural and vulnerable employees. Besides, the labour inspection system has been improved and labour inspectors are trained on how to act their roles in protecting the rights and benefits of both workers and employers. The Lao PDR has also worked in collaboration with partners in implementing the National Plan of Action for Eliminating the Child Labour and engaged all relevant partners and sectors in promoting and improving the occupational safety and health at workplaces.

Another important effort and with the continuous support from ILO, Lao PDR has closely collaborated with tripartite partners by recently having the high-level tripartite consultation meeting with the theme “Future of Work” focusing on Work for a Brighter Future in the Lao PDR. This aims at promoting investment on skill development, vocational training in line with digital work creation, green jobs promotion and other local jobs creation for rural young workers, especially women, as required in labour market. Last year Lao PDR ratified the legislation on improving the ILO constitution (1986) and has cooperated with ILO carrying out the labour force survey nationwide. The findings are used for a short and long term planning including the next five year plan.

In conclusion, on behalf of the Government of the Lao PDR as well as the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to the ILO and our friendship partners for their kind continuous support to the Lao PDR. Your continuous support is the valuable contribution and assistance to our social and economic development, particularly our labour sector and hopefully that we can further strengthen our cooperation.

Lastly, I wish you all stay healthy and wish the meeting comes to an end with great success.

Thank you very much