

Statement

By H.E. Mr. Phongxasysack INTHALATH, Vice Minister of Labour of Social Welfare and Head of Delegation of the Lao PDR

At the 110th Session of the International Labour Conference (ILC-ILO)

- H.E Mr. President;
- H.E. Mr. Guy Ryder, Director General of the International Labour Organization;
- Distinguished Delegates
- Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen;

On behalf of the delegation of the Lao PDR, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to you Mr. Chair, and would also like to support the report of Chairman that examines various issues of the impacts of crisis during the COVID-19 pandemic on the employment across the world. In this regard, we wish to congratulate Mr. Gilbert F. Houngbo of Togo on his election as the Director-General of the International Labour Organization and look forward to his leadership at the ILO and the continued collaboration with Lao PDR.

Mr. President

The Covid-19 pandemic has posed major impacts on socio-economic development worldwide, particularly on the regional and global employment and labour force participation. This crisis has continued to affect my country and people as ever, deepening existing vulnerabilities even more, making response plan and remedies extremely vital. My delegation believes that it is very important to further strengthen global efforts to respond to the pandemic and enhance effective recovery. Especially focusing on assistance efforts in LDC which lack the capacity to respond to the ongoing crisis such as the Lao PDR.

We must uphold multilateral cooperation with international organization, especially ILO, and the areas of focus on the post pandemic era should be strengthening of the labour market institutions, labour market reform and labour statistics. Also, in line with the report of the chairperson of the governing body for the period 2021-2022, the Government of the Lao PDR has developed several measures to mitigate the negative impacts of the pandemic, including a national response plan to COVID-19, concentrating on Occupational Safety and Health, addressing standard setting of apprenticeships, as well as the social and solidarity economy to ensure a human-centered recovery and development.

It is with great pride that I inform the conference that, Lao PDR, seeing the importance of OSH towards the path of the future, has ratified Convention No. 155 on Occupational Safety and Health and No. 187 on Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health which has received official documentation from the President of our country on the 14th of February 2022.#

Lastly, I would like to take this opportunity to reaffirm that, the Lao PDR stands ready to work with ILO and other UN agencies and international community in order to address the impacts on socio-economic development and labour market recovery.

Thank you for this opportunity and I wish us all a successful outcome.

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