

Remark by Mr. Oudet Souvannavong,  
President of the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry  
at the 110<sup>th</sup> International Labor Conference,  
Geneva on 9 June 2022.

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Chairman, Members of the Presidium,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is a great honor for me to represent the Employers in Laos to the 110<sup>th</sup> International Labor Conference.

I would like to congratulate Mr. Guy Ryder the Director of ILO for delivering a comprehensible report addressing the issues of occupational safety and health, apprenticeships, and social solidarity economy. The employers in Laos will support this initiative as safety and health is most important to maintain entrepreneurship and employment taking lesson from the past and present pandemic such as the COVID-19 outbreak.

Laos is in the LDC list, the Lao Government is implementing its 9<sup>th</sup> Social and Economic 5 years plan (2021-2025), which continue to put emphasis on developing a strong economy based on private investment and businesses. But since 2019, the GDP growth declined sharply due to the impact of health and travel measures that impacted to business operation in many sectors and deeply affected employment. To rehabilitate the economy a national agenda with new directives and measures have been recently made to improve the investment and business climate and to strengthen the capacity of local entrepreneurs and employers.

The decent work country program and other labor related programs which has been initiated and implemented in tri-partite with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and the Trade Union are progressing well and need to be further developed to include occupational safety and health, apprenticeships and coming disruptive economy and social changes.

The Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry as the official employers' organization is promoting decent work and contributed in the development of new labor and social well fare laws. One major task of our organization is to promote SMEs, especially the ones operating in the rural subsistence areas. However, its capacity is very limited and would need support to develop the initiatives generated from this conference.

Finally, I would like to thank the ILO for providing technical assistance to strengthen our organization to get to Lao employers and laborers a better working environment, a fair employment and descent works.

To these words I would like to wish a great success to the 110<sup>th</sup> International Conference.

Thank you.