

**Intervention by H.E. Mr. Anouparb VONGNORKEO,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR**
**Roundtable 1: Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social Development: Poverty
Eradication, Full and Productive Employment and Decent Work for All, and
Social Inclusion**

(Doha, 4 November 2025, 15:00-18:00 hrs | 3 minutes)

**Co-Chairs,
Distinguished Delegates,**

It is my great pleasure to be part of this High-Level Roundtable on *Strengthening the Three Pillars of Social Development*, which offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on the progress made since the 1995 Copenhagen Summit and to share lessons learned on inclusive and sustainable development at national level.

On Poverty Eradication: Sustained Commitment and Measurable Progress, for the Lao PDR, poverty eradication and social development have been top priorities in our national socio-economic development efforts, guided by a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach that places people at the centre of development.

As a result, **national poverty declined from 46 percent in 1993 to 16.87 percent in 2023**, with increasing investment in human capital and rural development. **Rural electrification expanded from 16 percent of households in 1995 to over 96 percent in 2023**, connecting communities to opportunity and enabling inclusive growth.

The **Poverty Reduction Fund** continues to support rural infrastructure development and provide social services to remote communities—benefiting more than 1.4 million people nationwide.

On Productive Employment and Livelihood Opportunities, increasing employment opportunities and improving people’s livelihood are integral to our national human resource development strategy. The Government promotes agricultural diversification, MSMEs, and vocational training to enhance productivity and income generation in rural areas.

Initiatives such as the Innovation Challenge Programme of the Lao Youth Union and the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Framework help to encourage inclusive participation in emerging sectors, especially in green and digital economies.

On Social Inclusion and Protection, ensuring that development can benefit everyone remains a top priority. The National Health Insurance Scheme now covers over 93 percent of the population, a major step toward universal health coverage, and in education, net primary enrolment now exceeds 98 percent.

On Institutional Mechanisms and Global Partnerships, our progress reflects not only national leadership but also effective coordination through the Roundtable Meeting Process (RTM), a key mechanism for policy dialogue with development partners to translate national priorities into coherent, inclusive and concrete actions.

In Conclusion: the Lao PDR's experience has shown that tangible progress is possible when policies are coherent, partnerships are inclusive, and people are placed at the center of national development.

The Copenhagen Declaration, the Doha Political Declaration, and the Awaza Declaration provide mutually reinforcing global frameworks, which guide our national efforts toward smooth, inclusive, and sustainable graduation from LDC status.

The Lao PDR reaffirms its steadfast determination to uphold and implement the principles stipulated in the said programmes of action to accelerate the 2030 Agenda.

Thank you.