LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Statement by
His Excellency Thongphane Savanphet
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lao PDR
at the High Level Segment of COP22, CMP12 and CMA1 to the UNFCCC
Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco, 15-17 November 2016

Mr. President,
Your Majesties,
Your Royal Highnesses,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, please allow me on behalf of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to extend our sincere congratulation and deep appreciation to the Government and people of the Kingdom of Morocco for the excellent arrangements made for this significant COP22 and for the warm hospitality extended to us since our arrival to this beautiful city of Marrakesh.

My delegation would like to wholeheartedly welcome the entry into force of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change on 4 November 2016, just less than one year after its adoption in Paris. This is indeed a testimony of members of the international community to join hands together to tackle climate change. We believe that any further delay in taking strong action to tackle climate change will only lead to greater adverse impacts on our people and planet.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR, a mountainous, least developed and landlocked developing country, has been exposed to more frequent, broader and severe natural disasters. The country is highly vulnerable to impact of climate change due to its low adaptive capacity and limited resources.

Having fully recognized that climate change poses challenges to the sustainable development of our country and to the livelihood of our people, the Lao Government ratified the Paris Agreement and submitted its instrument of ratification to Secretary General Ban Ki-moon during his participation in the 8th ASEAN-United Nations Summit in Vientiane on 7 September this year.

In this regard, I would like to reaffirm the Lao PDR's commitment to pursue practical policy and concrete action for the implementation of the Paris Agreement, including our Nationally Determined Contributions while mainstreaming climate change and natural disasters risk reduction and management along with the Sustainable Development Goals into our National Socio-Economic Development Plans. Besides, the Lao Government has been implementing the National Strategy on Climate Change through its action plans for the period 2013-2020 which define mitigation and adaptation actions in such sectors as agriculture, forestry, water resources, energy, transportation, industry and public health.

Mr. President,

At the regional level, the Lao PDR has been working closely with other ASEAN Member States in addressing climate change issue. At the recently concluded 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits held in September in Vientiane, Lao PDR, ASEAN Leaders issued the ASEAN Joint Statement on Climate Change to the 22nd Conference of the Parties (COP-22) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) which highlighted ASEAN Members' commitment to strengthen the management of ASEAN's diverse ecosystems and landscapes through a landscape-based approach to build climate resilience and enhance the ASEAN rapid response capacity to be more efficient and effective in the event of natural disasters. They urge Parties to the UNFCCC to enhance ambition on adaptation, mitigation, finance, technology development and transfer, capacity building and transparency of actions and support.

Let me conclude by expressing our heartfelt appreciation to the development partners for their continued support and assistance to strengthen the mitigation and adaptation capacity in my country. We stand ready to continue working closely with the international community in implementing the Paris Agreement.

I thank you for your attention.