

Remarks by: Ms. Sonam Yangchen Rana
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The Joint Press Conference on the 10th RTM

11th October 2010, 16:00, Ministry of Planning and Investment

Thank you all for attending this press conference.

As H.E. Dr. Sinlavong has just mentioned, this year Round Table Meeting is taking place at a critical juncture for the development of the Country as the country is finalising its Seventh Five Year Plan which aims promote high growth, equitable growth, and sustainable growth.

The new NSEDP will require approximately 127 trillion Kip or \$US 15 billion to implement its five years course, in which 26% or about US\$4 billion is expected from ODA, 50-60% from FDI, 10% from domestic credit and 10% from government budget.

The Round Table Mechanism promotes substantive dialogues on key development issues while at the same time fostering increased aid coordination and effectiveness that would ultimately result in improved livelihoods of the Lao people.

As the co-chair of the Round Table Meeting, the UN will continue to support the Government in mobilizing technical and financial assistance

from development partners for implementation of the Seventh Plan amid the difficult global financial situation which has begun to result in less ODA globally.

Nevertheless, looking at the ODA trend in the country, increased number of non traditional donors and given the good performance that the country has made over the past years, the UN is positive that the necessary resources can be mobilised.

I would like to also commend the Government's effort in making the MDGs central to the Five Year Plan. Building on the momentum created by the High Level MDG Summit in September, the Government has also developed the MDG Compact which will be signed at the RTM to renew Government's commitment and DP's support to MDGs. In addition, the new MDG 9 aims to: "Reduce the Impact of UXO in Laos". This is in accordance with the National Strategic Plan for the UXO sector "The Safe Path Forward II", which has been given special consideration given the strong links between UXO and poverty in Lao PDR. The UN will continue to encourage all DPs to consider this initiative positively.

This coming RTM 2010 will see the more strengthened cooperation between the Government and Development Partners toward aid effectiveness in the Lao PDR.

Thank you very much for your attention.

