

**Lao People's Democratic Republic**

**H.E. Dr. Inlavanh KEOBOUNPHANH**

**Vice - Minister of Health**

**in The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Nutrition**

**19-21 November 2014, at FAO Headquarters in Rome, Italy**

**Excellency Chairman,**

**Ministers,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**It is my great honour, on behalf of the Government of Lao P.D.R, to deliver this statement in the Second International Conference on Nutrition, here in Rome, Italy.**

**The Government of Lao P.D.R supports the Rome Declaration on Nutrition, accepts the common vision for global action to end all forms of malnutrition, and supports the strong emphasis on moving commitments to action.**

**Lao P.D.R has achieved impressive economic growth with GDP growing at 8 percent annually. Nevertheless the country faces significant challenges in the high levels of food insecurity and malnutrition and in achieving its MDG 1 malnutrition targets.**

**The Government of Lao P.D.R endorses the Framework for Action, and is already ensuring the relevant recommendations are being addressed.**

**Political will in Lao P.D.R is very strong at the highest level in the Government towards solving malnutrition. The reduction of malnutrition is**

**being placed as a major priority in the eighth National Social and Economic Development Plan. The Government of Laos is increasing its investment, and establishing all the institutional arrangements needed, including improvement of the multi-sectoral mechanisms, strong coordination and consultation with development partners.**

**The Government has established a Multi sectoral Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan based on a “convergence” approach. This Action Plan has combines 22 priority interventions from the agricultural, health, educational and WASH sectors aimed at improving food security and reducing malnutrition, which are being implemented at the same time in the same geographical areas. Laos remains flexible and ready to address past weaknesses and make the necessary changes in order to do better.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen!**

**Our efforts are underpinned by the continuing strong commitment from the Lao Government, by all concerned sectors, and the continuing support from our development partners.**

**I would like to take this opportunity to convey the gratitude and thanks of my Government to the United Nations, in the form of FAO, IFAD, UNICEF and WFP, WHO, the European Union, other development partners and all concerned for their patience and continued strong commitment and support to Food Security and Nutrition to my people, we would be happy to have more assistance.**

**Finally, may I wish the second international conference on nutrition success and let us end all forms of malnutrition.**

**Thank You Very Much!!**