



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S  
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement by Mr. Kham-Inh KHITCHADETH, Chargé d'affaires, a.i  
of the Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic Republic  
speaking on behalf of the Group of LLDCs

At the First Meeting of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development  
Goals

UNHQ, New York, 15 March 2013

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Mr. President,  
Distinguished Co-Chairpersons,

At the outset, allow me to express my delegation's appreciation to the President of the General Assembly for his leadership in this process. I would like to commend the Secretary-General for his initial input to the Open Working Group providing many important elements for further discussion. I would also like to congratulate distinguished Co-Chairs on your election to guide this important task.

My delegation associates itself with the statement of G77 and China delivered by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Fiji.

Mr. President,

In my capacity as Chair of the Group of LLDCs, I would like to highlight that in the Rio+20 outcome document "The Future We Want", there are two specific paragraphs 36 and 182 which recognizes the serious constraints to achieve sustainable development in all its three dimensions in LLDCs and

reaffirms our commitment to address special development needs and the challenges faced by LLDCs through the full, timely and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

In this context, while recognizing that the SDGs should be universal, the Group requests that those serious constraints and special development needs and the challenges faced by one of the most vulnerable groups of countries like LLDCs should be taken into due consideration during the course of the Open Working Group.

Mr. President,

We believe that as the Group of LLDCs are in the process of preparations for the comprehensive ten year review conference on the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action to be held in 2014, there would be good opportunities for the Group to discuss and formulate possible priority areas for the next decade in the coming months. Therefore, we would like to make special proposals later on to the OWG and the UN membership as a whole for consideration.

Importantly, we would like to stress that recognizing special needs and challenges of LLDCs alone would not enable LLDCs to address them unless they are reflected in outcome documents of relevant processes, especially the reflection of infrastructure development, development of sustainable transport and productive capacity as well as building resilience to internal and external shocks. This would not be possible without sufficient support and cooperation from the international community as well as genuine partnership between landlocked and transit developing countries and development partners.

I thank you Mr. President.