

**Statement by H.E. Madame Phonevanh Outhavong,
Vice Minister of Planning and Investment to the
Human Capital Ministerial Conclave – Spring 2022**

- Globalization and technological advancements have offered tremendous opportunities to some in terms of education prospects and health outcomes. Yet, for the poorest and most vulnerable ones throughout the world, the reality remains far different. Increasing investments in teachers and children, doctors, nurses, and social workers and the marginalized ones, must be a priority to enable our people to meet the demand of a rapidly changing world. In times of crisis, particularly the poor, women, children, the elderly, and persons with disabilities, are at risk of being left behind, with serious challenges to their wellbeing.
- As environmental, health and financial crises threaten to increase poverty and suffering, never has the need to invest in people been so critical. This calls for “a great reset” in the way we think about human capital development and how we ensure that everybody has the equal opportunity to participate.
- In Lao PDR, our 9th National Plan 2021-2025 focuses on building the human capital of the country, represented today by its children, adolescents and youth. Prioritization of investments in health, nutrition, education and developing the skills that workers need to benefit from technological change, is therefore enforced.
- Efforts and resources have been mobilized to accelerate the strengthening of policies and enhancing participation of all stakeholders, by leveraging on innovation and emerging development models including digital transformation, green growth and care economy, which can bring broad positive changes to the people and leave no one behind.
- Despite financial constraints and our tremendous efforts, the Government of Lao PDR remains committed to ensuring continuous human capital investments to narrow the development gaps between developed and developing countries, between income groups within country particularly between urban and rural population; and delivering on the promise of an inclusive, resilient, and sustainable future for all.

**Floor Intervention by H.E. Madame Phonevanh Outhavong,
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I would like to strongly encourage we harness the Human Capital Project Conclave as a platform to strengthen global partnership that can be translated into innovatively tangible programmes, plans and actions through closer collaboration and cooperation among member countries. It is only through our collective efforts that we will be able to achieve our common goals and the Global Agenda 2030 and thereby leaving no one behind.