



Lao CSO Coordination Office - LCCO
ASEAN Mall Building no. C4, Kamphengmueng Road, Ban Phonthan
Xaysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
T : +856 30 478 6636 E : info@lao-cso-network.org
W: www.lao-cso-network.org
Fb Page: <https://www.facebook.com/laocso/>

Comments of Lao CSOs on the Lao PDR's Voluntary National Review (VNR)

2018 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

(submitted on April 30, 2018)

Lao CSOs have been actively engaged and working with local communities in different provinces. We realize the problems, concerns and needs of local communities we have been working with. Our work and project intervention on the ground have proved to bring better quality of lives of local communities and hence local sustainable development. Innovations that have been addressing, solving problems and responding to the needs of local communities can significantly contribute to the efforts of the Lao Government in making progress towards achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

With the opportunity of Lao PDR being one of the countries to prepare for a National Voluntary Review (VNR) and present it at the High Level Political Level 2018 (HLPF 2018), we see this as an initial step to bring to the government's attention our input to the VNR, and to actively engage in the national SDGs process. We would also like to refer to, and to re-iterate, that the reviews will be *'open, inclusive, participatory and transparent for all people and will support the reporting by all relevant stakeholders'*¹, and *such reviews should draw on contributions from ethnic peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders, in line with national circumstances, policies and priorities*². This will ensure no one is left behind.

There are 30 participants from 28 CSO organizations have discussed the draft VNR, at a workshop organized by LCCO from April 26-27, 2018 in Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. The outcome of the 2-days workshop is our concerns and recommendations to the VNR, for Lao Government consideration as follows:

1. Lao CSOs engagement in the national SDGs and the preparation for the VNR: The current CSOs engagement has been limited to some of the CSOs and invitations for CSOs comments have been made through informal channels. In order to ensure meaningful and inclusive participation of all in the SDGs process, we therefore propose the following:

- 1.1 The engagement of Lao CSOs should be formalized and institutionalized of which invitations for CSOs comments will be officially made by the respective governments.
- 1.2 We request that invitations to Lao CSOs be made to Lao CSOs Coordinating Office (LCCO) who is the CSOs focal point. We will initiate our selection process for respective representatives.

¹ Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 74, principles of the follow-up and review process at all levels.

² Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paragraph 79.



Lao CSO Coordination Office - LCCO
ASEAN Mall Building no. C4, Kamphengmueng Road, Ban Phonthan
Xaysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
T : +856 30 478 6636 E : info@lao-cso-network.org
W: www.lao-cso-network.org
Fb Page: <https://www.facebook.com/laocso/>

1.3 To ensure meaningful and inclusive participation, Lao CSOs should be engaged in all the processes of policy and legislation planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting.

2. On the implementation of SDGs, we are fully agreed with the draft of VNR but we found that some important issues are missing and we do propose to add in each SDG as the following:

SDG 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere

- Ensure full enforcement of laws and legislation on employment priority to Lao nationals.
- Commit to strong actions towards poverty eradication, with regular evaluation, while at the same time, reduce gaps of income and living standard condition between urban and rural areas.
- Strong support communities of SME potential for additional income in order to sustainable living standard.

SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

- Set up control mechanisms for the use, production, trade, distribution, of chemical substances that will be contaminating the food system.
- Protect agricultural lands for communities.
- Strictly control the fake and unsafe food.
- Creating a SMART model farmers in agro-ecology/organic agriculture.

SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

- Ensure access of the disabled people to public health services.
- Looking after and promoting the elder peoples for free access to health care and have access for a good food and culture for health.

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

- Ensure access of the disabled people to education.
- Expand the number of vocational schools by encouraging private sector investment.
- Ensure data on education reflects the reality and is accurate for education policy planning.

SDG 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

- Recognize diversified sexual orientation, gender identity and expressions (SOGIE).

SDG 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all

- Regulate all types of wastes (solid, toxic and chemical wastes) released to water courses, nationwide.

SDG 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

- Ensure inclusive and meaningful engagement of CSOs in the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation, and reporting of energy related projects.



Lao CSO Coordination Office - LCCO
ASEAN Mall Building no. C4, Kamphengmueng Road, Ban Phonthan
Xaysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
T : +856 30 478 6636 E : info@lao-cso-network.org
W: www.lao-cso-network.org
Fb Page: <https://www.facebook.com/laocso/>

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

- Enforce Lao Labor and Commercial Laws to ensure effective and just practice.
- Formalize informal labors with provision of appropriate skills and equitable social protection for informal workers welfares.

SDG 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation

- Accelerate the promotion of SMEs to become more competitive in a sustainable manner.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries

- Ensure equal access to education, health services and justice; and reduce inequality between urban and rural areas.

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable Infrastructure to take into consideration of the disabled people access and needs

- Implement integrated land use planning with utilities and infrastructure plans, with especial attention to the accessibility of the disabled people.
- Raising awareness nationwide on loveable cities with effective waste collection and sorting systems.

SDG 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

- Support installation of recycle facilities nationwide and priorities waste recycling.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

- Ensure supports for community-based adaptation planning process and measures.
- Ensure CSOs engagement in the climate actions both for mitigation and adaptation.

SDG 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

- Ensure accountable mechanisms in place to check the status of natural resources both in terms of quality and quantity.

SDG 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

- Strengthen legal capacity and ethics among lawyers; and establish an accountable mechanism to ensure unbiased judgment.
- Control inappropriate conducts among tourists and enhance respects of culture, environment and laws, including protection of women, girls and ethnic peoples from being engaged in human and drugs trafficking.



Lao CSO Coordination Office - LCCO
ASEAN Mall Building no. C4, Kamphengmueng Road, Ban Phonthan
Xaysettha District, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
T : +856 30 478 6636 E : info@lao-cso-network.org
W: www.lao-cso-network.org
Fb Page: <https://www.facebook.com/laocso/>

SDG 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

- Take cautions and consider long term impacts when getting loans or FDI; and engage CSOs in decision making process on matters related to finance and loans.
- Multiply concrete collaborations between government and CSOs.

We hope these collective views and proposal of Lao CSOs are hopefully incorporated in the VNR and SDGs implementation.

Thank you very much!