**Position Paper for the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific**

***Delegation****: Laos*

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**TOPIC 1**

Laos heavily relies on assistance from developing nations as it is one of East Asia’s poorest countries, lacking jobs in the service industry (BBC, 2016). The delegation of Laos believes that in order to have a strong infrastructure, there must be an established government. In addition, the best method for agriculture is having it naturally grown.

The delegation of Laos believes that there are several ways of increasing the level of cooperation among South East Asian countries. Southeast Asian countries are made up of states promoting intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members. By working together, countries such as Thailand, the Philippines and Laos are relatively similar from an economic standpoint. By having a regular flow of trade of goods and services between these Southeast Asian countries, they will be able to work very efficiently with one another. All South East-Asian countries can increase their integration by being more open to the idea of coming together as one and acting as one united society, instead of being separate countries.

The delegation of Laos believes that by having poor governance this will lead to lack of infrastructure for countries. In regards to infrastructure for Somalia for example, because of the unpredictable decisions made by power leaders, long term planning and social services are non- existent. Somalia is just one of the many countries that have a corrupt government leading to a poor economic structure and lack of stable infrastructure (Factbook, 2016). In regards to Southeast Asia, in some countries such as Vietnam, which is a a socialist republic government, infrastructure is not very poor. By other Asian countries following the ways of developed countries that have a stable infrastructure, they will be able to foresee changes being made to their country for the greater good.

**TOPIC 2:**

The delegation of Laos believes climate smart agriculture may create controversy between neighbouring nations. Climate-smart agriculture (CSA) is an approach that helps to guide actions needed to transform and reorient agricultural systems to effectively support development and ensure food security in a changing climate (Agriculture, 2016). There are several disadvantages to this type of agriculture. Some examples include, crop residues left on the land cannot be used for other purposes , no-till can pose difficulty to crop emergence, new pest/diseases may appear, weed infestations, and lack of local knowledge from farmers (Agriculture, 2016). The alternative option would be to naturally and locally grow any variety of vegetation so it is fresh and has reduced chemicals making the producer and consumer both happy.

The delegation of Laos believes that climate change will have both a positive and negative impact on smallholder farmer’s regions. In the past if it was very dry in a specific region, because of climate change this weather pattern might have be altered and it will start to rain so farmers can plant and grow new types of crops increasing their income. For example, in Vietnam and Thailand there is a major increase in temperature year by year and it is getting hotter and hotter.

Laos strongly believes climate smart agriculture will create some controversy. Smart farming requires skills in robotics, and computer based intelligence, skills the average farmer would maybe not have. As Laos is not a fully developed country, many farmers would struggle with the new use of technology because they may not be educated enough or they cannot afford the new equipment. Other approaches of climate smart agriculture can be taken. For example, having simpler and cheaper equipment so that farmers in Laos do not struggle with affordability and educational issues.

The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a specialized agency of the United Nations dedicated to eradicating poverty and hunger in rural areas of developing countries. Specifically for Laos,, the Country Programming Framework 2016-2021 (CPF) takes priorities in national development policies and programs, including the Agricultural Development Strategy to 2025 adopted in 2015. The CPF for Laos addresses four priority areas: Fostering agricultural production and rural development, Improved food security and nutrition, with special focus on the most vulnerable (e,g, poor women, food-insecure farm households, Forests and other ecosystems are protected and enhanced) Improving capacity to respond to food and agricultural threats and emergencies and the impact of climate change.

The delegation correctly facilitates conditions for safe and effective migration. The majority of Laos’ migrant workers are in Thailand (49%), the United States (33%) and France (8%) (Migration, 2014). They are employed in a variety of trades. In Thailand, the great majority of Lao PDR migrants are low skilled and thus mostly engaged in manual work. In 2013, Lao migrants sent remittances totaling somewhere between $204 million and $258 million back home, accounting for 1.9% – 2.5% of the country’s GDP (Migration, 2014). It is clear that Laos creates safe conditions for labor migration.

Local populations for Laos will react positively to these changes in policies. Due to the fact that most of the citizens are farmers or work in the agriculture sector, they will be able to use more efficient equipment and be able to produce more of their goods in a more improved manner.

Overall Laos is such a fertile land that it produces a lot of crops that are not only beneficial to our citizens but also the rest of the world. By implanting these new laws and regulations of having more efficient farming equipment it will increase a farmers income leading to an increase in GDP and therefore improving the economy for the greater good.

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