

**Statement by the Lao Delegation**  
**On International Cooperation and assistance**  
**At the Intersessional Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster munitions**  
17 April 2012, Geneva

Coordinators,

Let me thank Mexico and Spain for the excellent work done and as well as for the comprehensive report on the implementation of Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.

Lao PDR is of the view that international cooperation and assistance is one of the most important milestones should all of the obligations under the Convention be fulfilled. In the past decades, we have been receiving valuable supports and cooperation from donor countries, international organizations and INGOs in total of over 25 million US dollars for the period from December 2010 to December 2011. In this regard may I take this opportunities to express our sincere thank and appreciation to donor countries, namely: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and US. We also warmly welcome the European Union's intention to increase its contribution to the UXO Sector in the coming years.

For our part, the Government has annually contributed in kind contribution to the UXO sector of around 31.000 USD. In addition to this, the Government is in the process of considering increase its contribution to the UXO sector in the near future.

The Lao Government has also improved a CCM implementation plan, namely the Safe Path Forward II and the 10-Year-Plan for CCM Implementation of which it is at the final process and it will be adopted very soon. This draft plan is based on extensive consultations with line ministries and local authorities, as well as budget estimates provided by the key operators of the UXO sector. We hope that the plan would be a good reference for acceleration of the implementation of the CCM.

Despite the progress has been made, a lot of challenges remained. There is a need for continue support and collaboration from international community, without those our ability to fulfill our obligations under the Convention would be seriously affected.

Thank you for your attention.