

Statement by the Lao Delegation
On International Cooperation and assistance
At the Second Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster munitions
16 September, Beirut

Madam President,

Let me thank South Africa for the excellent work on international cooperation and assistance and a comprehensive report on the implementation of Article 6 on international cooperation and assistance.

Assuming presidency of 1MSP, the Lao PDR considers international cooperation has been one of its focus in the implementation of the Convention. We have actively worked with our friends and other states parties to advocate and promote the implementation of the Convention.

The Lao PDR has been receiving supports and cooperation from donor countries, especially the states parties, signatories and state not parties to the Convention as well as from the international organizations including INGO. In this regard, I would like to thank those States Parties and Signatories without whom our ability to implement the Convention would be seriously affected, particularly : Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom. We also warmly welcome the European Union's intention to increase its contribution to the UXO Sector in the coming years. In addition, we also appreciate China for its financial support in the area of victim assistance, as well as the United States.

At the national level, the Lao Government has developed a CCM implementation plan following a multiyear results framework which is a work in progress. Copies of the plan are being distributed. I would also be put on the website of the Convention. As you may be aware that we presented a 10-Year-Plan Concept Paper for CCM Implementation at the Intersessional Meeting held in June this year in Geneva. In recent weeks, we have done more work on this plan and developed a set of milestones, targets and indicators directly driven from the Convention. 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 welcome any feedback and suggestions on ways to reinforce the plan and, most importantly, resources to accelerate its implementation on the ground.

Altogether, I must say that the CCM community has been very supportive. As you all know, the challenges facing my country remain huge. But with your support and the dedication of UXO Sector operators, we can make a real difference in the lives of affected communities.

Thank you for your attention.