

**Statement by Lao PDR  
on National Implementation Measures  
8th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions  
3-5 September 2018, Geneva**

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Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation would like to congratulate New Zealand for the great work in coordinating the National Implementation Measures working group.

Lao PDR continues to recognize the strong commitment from the international community to ensure the implementation of the obligations all aspects enshrined in the Convention are met. Lao PDR was the second country signing the CCM, we will constantly remain our commitment to the convention. Please allow me to take this opportunity to share you the developments in Lao PDR with respect to the national implementation measures.

Mr. President,

As you are aware that Lao PDR launched its national SDG 18 2016, Apart from the introduction of SDG 18, a number of documents related to UXO were also adopted including a new Victim Assistance Strategy up to 2020. The designation of the document was a tool to guide the implementation of NRA Victim Assistance to assist UXO Victims within the broader disability and development frameworks in Lao PDR. Furthermore, a new Survey Strategy: ‘From Survey to Safety’ over a 5-year period was also adopted. The strategy will positively contribute to the National Survey Program to define the extent of Cluster Munitions contamination across country.

In 2018, UXO sectors conducted a comprehensive survey of six (6) most heavily contaminated provinces. In 2019, three (3) additional contaminated provinces will be added to this national survey plan and finally, in 2020-2021, the national survey will start in another five (5) provinces. We thereby aim to have a total of 14 provinces fully surveyed by end of 2021, which will constitute the first comprehensive national survey of known cluster munitions contamination in Lao PDR.

Progress made in 2018:

- Prime Minister has approved new decree of the NRA No. 67/PM, dated 12 February 2018.
- Minister of Labour and Social Welfare has issued the implementing of the UXO Survey Standard No. 21/NRA, dated 4 July 2018.

The Lao PDR is continuing to implement the Prime Minister Order No. 039/PM issued in 2016, which stipulates that development projects in provinces and districts affected by UXO must undergo survey and clearance before project implementation, and these development projects must also allocate funding for survey and clearance.

In 2018, the Lao government is working on UXO clearance priorities, which collected priority land for development for ~~2018~~ 2019 in 10 UXO contaminated provinces. The provinces have identified more than 100,000 Ha of priority land for development, of which we have already been able to determine that there are at least 80,000 Ha of Confirmed Hazardous Areas for clearance within these priority land.

Reduction the number of UXO accidents and increasing of the UXO awareness is one of our top priorities, UXO awareness has been integrated into the primary school's curriculum in 10 UXO contaminated provinces. This aims to teach children how to live in UXO contaminated areas, to provide better understanding on the dangers associated with UXO, and to demonstrate how to prevent and avoid these threats in their daily lives. This plan is to expand to the whole country coverage and the UXO curriculum will also be expanded into the secondary school within 2020 in order to cover all school in Lao PDR.

Mr. President,

While much progress has been made, we are still facing a number of challenges. **Firstly**, insufficiency of resources is affecting the UXO sector as a whole, in particular, the two main national institutions responsible for the implementation and oversight of the convention, namely the NRA and UXO Lao. **Secondly**, the coordination and collaboration among sector stakeholders need to be further improved in order to increase both the effectiveness and efficiency of the sector.

Mr. President,

Lao PDR will continue to do its utmost to implement all the provisions of the convention by working closely with States Parties and international community in order to prevent any further loss of lives caused by UXOs. We hope to see the day when Laos and other countries are free from cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war and landmines.

I thank you.