

**Statement by Lao PDR**

**Transparency Measures**

**4th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions**

**10- 13 September 2013**

**Lusaka, Zambia**

**Co-chairs, Dear Colleagues,**

**On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Belgium as Coordinator for the Working Group on Reporting for its excellent work again this past year, and for reporting back to this meeting.**

**National reporting is one of the important obligations that States Parties have to fulfill under Article 7 to keep track of progress made and challenges which remain. I would like to congratulate those who submitted their reports on time and hope that those States Parties who have not done so to consider doing so as well. We also urge signatories and non-party states to submit voluntary Article 7 reports.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen, Lao PDR has tried its best to fulfill all of our reporting obligations. With regard to content of our reports, one of the main obstacles for us continues to be determining the exact size and location of contaminated areas throughout our country.**

**As colleagues know, a terrible amount of ordnance was dropped on Lao PDR during the Second Indochina War - according to bombing data made available to us, over 2 million tons of bombs, including 270 million cluster munitions. In 1997, a Handicap International Impact Survey estimated that the contaminated area for all types of UXO could be as high as 87,000 Km<sup>2</sup>.**

**But I must stress that this was an estimation only and the figure for 1997, is not our current situation. With regard specifically to contamination by cluster**

munitions, bombing data indicated that there were approximately 70,000 individual cluster munition target locations, with each cluster munition strike producing a footprint of up to up to 12 hectares for an estimated total at the end of the war of approximately 8,470 square kilometers. The figure, of course, is now lower due to progress on clearance since the war. We are now trying to determine accurate figures through various methods, but it will take time to get a clear and complete national picture.

We are also improving the work of collecting data with respect to UXO type in order for us to be able to fully comply with the reporting standards.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we endeavor to report on all other aspects of the situation and our national efforts and those of international colleagues to address the UXO problem in Lao PDR.

Over time, we intend to have more accurate and extensive data and will be happy to report this back, when we do.

I thank you for your kind attention.