

**Statement by Lao PDR
on National Implementation Measures
6th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions
5-7 September 2016, Geneva**

Mr. President,
Distinguished Delegates,

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 recognizes the strong commitment from the international community to ensure the obligations contained in the Convention are met. As a second country signing the CCM, Lao PDR will constantly remain fully committed to the convention. Please allow me to take this opportunity to report the developments in Lao PDR with respect to the national implementation measures.

Dear colleagues,

Tomorrow, the first nationalized SDG, SDG-18, will be launched in Vientiane as part of the ASEAN summit side event by the Prime Minister of Lao PDR, the United Nations Secretary General and we expect the President of the United States to join the event. SDG provides both ambitious and realistic aims for the Government of Lao and the UXO Sector in order to minimize the risk of all forms of UXOs on the people of Lao. Besides the introduction of SDG 18, series of documents related to UXO were also adopted. A new Victim Assistance Strategy up to 2020 was approved in 2014. This document was designed as a tool to guide the NRA Victim Assistance unit 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 Non-Technical and Technical Survey.

In terms of regulation, the Lao government issued the notification No. 93/NRA, dated 29 November 2012 on UXO Clearance for Socio-Economic Development Projects in Lao PDR, which stipulates that all provincial and district development projects in areas affected by UXO must undergo survey and clearance before project implementation, and must also allocate funding to cover the cost. Currently, the government of Lao has upgraded this Prime Minister Order to cover not only UXO survey and clearance, but also mine risk education in the new Prime Minister Order, I am waiting for signature.

Most importantly, with a view to reduce the number of UXO victims to the lowest amount possible, we have integrated UXO into the primary school's curriculum in 10 UXO contaminated provinces. This curriculum 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.

Mr. President,

While much progress has been made, we are still facing a number of challenges. Firstly, the current difficulties in funding is affecting the UXO sector as a whole, in particular, the two main national institutions responsible for the implementation and oversight of treaty activities. 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. Lastly, although the new Government of Lao/UNDP project for the UXO Sector is being developed, the current project is ending in December and there is currently a lack of resources for the 2017-2021 project.

Distinguished delegates,

Lao PDR will continue to do its utmost to implement all the provisions of the convention. We hope to see the day when Laos is free from cluster munitions, other explosive remnants of war and landmines.

I thank you for your kind attention.