

**Statement by the Lao PDR Delegation on
National implementation measures
Beirut, 15 September 2011**

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Lao delegation, let me express our appreciation to New Zealand in its capacity as friend of the President for the report on the status and activities with regards to national implementation measures and in particular the checklist of measures needed by States to implement the Cluster Munitions Convention and model legislation.

Allow me also to share with you some information on national implementation measures as required by Article 9 of the Convention. At the present time, the Lao PDR has a number of legal texts in place regulating UXO Sector activities, such as:

1. A Government Decree, in 1996, establishing UXO Lao;
2. The Resolutions of the Lao PDR Government, in 2004, adopting the National Strategic Plan for the UXO Programme 2003-2013, called “The Safe Path Forward”; the Strategy has been revised in 2009 to take account of the new circumstances and make it relevant and appropriate in today’s context. A revised Strategy, “The Safe Path Forward II” 2011-2020, is about to be adopted.
3. A Government Decree, in 2004, establishing the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO Sector in Lao PDR¹, under the Chairmanship of a Deputy-Prime Minister. This Decree has been amended on 09 June 2011. The NRA has been given the mandate to control, coordinate and regulate the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR;
4. A Government Decision, in 2005, on the Organization and Activities of the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR;
5. The National UXO/Mine Action Standards (NS), adopted by the NRA Board in 2007 and currently under review, in particular its Chapter 6 on Survey which now incorporates

¹ The NRA is an Inter-ministerial Committee, including 9 line ministries (the NRA Board); the amended Decree has increased this number to 17.

some of the requirements of the land release IMAS and embraces the principles of a risk management approach.

6. A Decision of the Prime Minister Office, of 25 January 2010 on the Establishment of the UNDP Trust Fund for Support to the Full Implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the Lao PDR.
7. The Lao PDR specific MDG 9 on the reduction of UXO impacts by 2020, adopted by the Vientiane High Level Round Table Meeting, on 20 October 2010.

With regard to Penal Sanctions, we have only some articles of the Penal Code dealing with war weapons and explosives. Therefore, as a part of our CCM Implementation Plan, we intent to prepare a new legislation in accordance with Article 9, “including the imposition of penal sanctions to prevent and suppress any activity prohibited to a State Party under this Convention.”

Thank you for your attention.