

Statement by the Delegation of the LAO PDR

Universalization of the Convention

Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions

13 September 2012, Oslo, Norway

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Please allow me to begin by congratulating and thanking Japan and Portugal for the excellent work in coordinating and leading the Working Group on Universalization over the past year.

Mr. President,

It is so pleased to learn that, since our Second Meeting 12 more states have ratified or acceded to the Convention, bringing the total number of States Parties to 75. The continued growth of the membership of the Convention is testimony that our Convention is steadily becoming the international norm among the member states of the United Nations. However, we should work harder to persuade the rest of the world community that the cluster munitions are no longer acceptable for use because of their indiscriminate, wide area effects and their high failure rate.

Lao PDR, as one of the most affected countries by cluster munitions, has done its utmost to promote the noble humanitarian objectives of the Oslo Convention, with a view to making the Convention universal and we will continue to work closely with other signatories and international organizations including INGOs

to achieve our ultimate goal. In this regards, I would like to reiterate our call to all states that have not yet done so to consider acceding to the Convention as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

Domestically, we have maintained our previous practices of advocacy and raising UXO and CCM awareness through interviews, articles, TV and radio broadcasts as well as through organizing various activities and exhibitions on special occasions such as Mine Action Day and celebration of the Entry into Force of the CCM to educate our people about the impact and danger of UXO and our obligations under the Convention.

As you may know, in 2010 Lao PDR in cooperation with UNDP adopted Lao specific MDG9 to reduce the impact of UXO by 2020, but without its own logo. Therefore, in order to further raise the profile of MDG9 and CCM, we conducted the MDG 9 logo competition on the Mine Action Day event this year and the winning logo was officially launched during the celebration of the CCM Entry into Force Day on the 1st August 2012.

Mr. President,

I would like to take this opportunity to inform you, that later this year, Lao PDR will host the 9th Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM 9) and other related meetings including the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP), Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF), and the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF). We will take each of these opportunities to organize side events and exhibitions of UXO and to promote the CCM in wider range.

In conclusion, please allow me to express our appreciation to our fellow States Parties, international organizations and civil society for their tireless efforts and strong voices in promoting universalization of the Convention in order to make our world safe from cluster munitions. I can assure you of my country's full support in this endeavor.

I thank you for your kind attention.