

**Statement by the Delegation of the LAO PDR on Transparency Measures**

**Third Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**13 September 2012, Oslo, Norway**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Belgium, Coordinator for the Working Group on Reporting for its excellent work over the past year.

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 I hope that those States Parties who have not done so to consider doing so as well.

Lao PDR has tried its best to fulfill its obligation with regard to content and submitting the report on time. We submitted our report well before the set dateline. Let me focus on the content that we faced some difficulties, one of the main obstacles for us is determining the exact size of the contaminated area. As many of you may know, the contaminated area in my country is so huge, 14 out of the total 17 provinces are contaminated by UXO, but the exact size was never known until now. It may possible to do the ground survey for determining the contaminated area, but it will take very long time and needs a lot of funding and human resources. Therefore, the best way we can do at the moment is using the available bombing data of approximate 70.000 individual cluster munitions target locations, with each cluster munition strike producing a footprint of up to 12 hectares, so the estimation for contaminated area by cluster munitions would be around 8,470 square kilometers at the end

of the war. The figure, of course, may be lower due to progress on clearance since the war. We are now trying to determine accurate figures through various methods, such as district approach and land release survey, but it will take time to get a clear national picture.

We are also improving data collection, in part by disaggregating information concerning the type of UXO cleared, in order to fully comply with reporting standards. I hope that in our next annual report, we will be able to provide more detailed information as required.

I think you for your kind attention.