

**Statement by the Delegation of the LAO PDR: Universalization of the  
Convention**

**at CCM Intersessional Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions**

**16-18 April 2013, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Mr. President,**

**Co-Chairs,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to Portugal and Ghana, coordinators of the Working Group on Universalization, for their excellent work.**

**Co-Chairs,**

**Lao PDR is so pleased to learn that, since our Third Meeting of States Parties, 6 more states have ratified the Convention, namely Peru, Australia, Nauru, Liechtenstein, Chad and very recently Andorra. This brings the total number of States Parties to 81. 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 countries most affected 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. We have taken every possible opportunity to promote the Convention internationally and will continue to urge states not parties to consider acceding to it, as soon as possible.**

**Domestically, we have maintained previous practices of advocacy and raising UXO and CCM awareness through interviews, articles, TV and radio broadcasts. Early this month, we organized an event to commemorate Mine Action Day to educate people about the impact and danger of UXO and our obligations under the Oslo Convention.**

**As you may know, in 2012, Lao PDR hosted the 9<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Summit Meeting (ASEM), along with other important ASEM events, including the Asia-Europe People's Forum (AEPF), the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership Meeting (ASEP) and the Asia-Europe Business Forum (AEBF). We used each of these opportunities to organize side events and exhibitions of UXO and to promote the CCM.**

**In addition, we included our call for universalization of the CCM in our statement at the general debate at the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN General Assembly.**

**In March 2013, Lao PDR had the honour to host the cooperation framework summits, namely the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam Summit and the Ayeyawady - Chao Phraya - Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy or ACMECS and we use the opportunity to include in our statement the call for the cooperation on UXO sector.**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

**I would like express our appreciation to the excellent work done by our fellow States Parties, our current president, international organizations and particularly civil society for their tireless efforts and their strong voices in promoting universalization of the Oslo Convention. I once again urge those countries that have not yet done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to the Convention as soon as possible, in order to make our world free from threat of cluster munitions.**

**I thank you for your kind attention.**