

**Statement by Ms. Moukdavanh SISOULITH,
Deputy Director General, Department of International Organizations,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR,
At the Convention on Cluster Munitions Intersessional Meetings 2022
16 – 17 May 2022**

Agenda item: National Implementation Measures.

Mr. President,

I would like to briefly report the progress of our national implementation measures to the meeting. The detail of this progress is made available on our Annual National Report.

The Lao PDR consistently attaches great importance to the Convention on Cluster Munition. This strong political will and high level commitment from the Government has been demonstrated since the early entry into force of the Convention, where our concrete national policies and regulatory frameworks covering UXO/Mine Action operations and victim assistance. The highest level of implementation measure is the Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2021-2025), in which reflects UXO/Mine action as one of the top priorities for the country's development plan. More importantly the adoption of the National Sustainable Development Goal entitled SDG 18 "Remove the UXO Obstacle to National Development" has been a historical mark and emphasized the longstanding commitment of the Lao Government to fulfill our obligation under the CCM.

Mr. President,

Currently, the 3rd National Strategy on UXO/Mine Action called “Safe Path Forward III” for the period of 2021-2030 is being finalized and expected to be adopted next month. Moreover, I would like to highlight another recent regulatory framework development on the finalization of the Government Decree on UXO/Mine Action, which stress the importance of UXO/Mine Action programme as well as to ensure the effectiveness and quality management of all related activities. In essence, this Decree will stipulate the prohibition of the use, develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer cluster munition in full compliance with the CCM provision. This Decree is expected to be promulgated in the next few months.

Mr. President,

On my final note, I would like to reiterate our commitment adhering to the CCM and Lao PDR is looking forward to collaborate and working in partnership with all stakeholders in strengthening the implementation of the Convention.

I thank you.