

Laos

Statement by Lao Delegation
on international cooperation and assistance
Intersessional Meeting of States Parties to CCM
29 June 2011

Chairman,

On behalf of the Lao delegation, let me express our appreciation to you, as Friend of the President of the First Meeting of States Parties on Cooperation and Assistance. Your hard work and dedication for the course of our Convention deserved our congratulation.

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Article 6 of the Convention on international cooperation and assistance is one of the important aspects should our obligations under the Convention be fully met, particularly on stockpile destruction, clearance and victim assistance for those States Parties from developing countries. In this regard, on behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to share with you a short update on the Lao PDR's recent efforts in relation to international cooperation and assistance.

Since the entry into force of the Convention, the Lao PDR undertook the following activities:

- First, the NRA has developed an Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) Sector work plan for 2011, based on the National Strategic Plan "The Safe Path Forward 2" and on detailed inputs from operators.
- Secondly, the Government has started a consultative process to draft a 10 Year Plan Concept Paper for the CCM Implementation. The concept paper was primarily based on consultations with local authorities during a two-day workshop held in May 2011 in Vientiane. The Concept Paper was presented to donors and UXO operators on June 14th and during the side event that took place on 27 June during lunch time. We hope to produce the complete version of this plan by the 2MSP in Lebanon.
- Thirdly, we have worked closely with the civil society groups and international organizations operating in the Lao PDR to carry out resource mobilization efforts. We approached States Parties in a position to do so, states not party, as well as other international organizations.
- Fourthly, we strived to maintain the exchange of information and consultation among all UXO stakeholders in the Lao PDR (line ministries, donors, operators and UN agencies).

Despite a very challenging international financial context, the response of the international community has been encouraging. I would like to particularly thank those States Parties and Signatories namely Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and others for their continued technical and financial support to the Lao PDR in an effort to address UXO problem and implementation of the Convention on Cluster Munitions. We also warmly welcome the European Union's intention to contribute generously to the UXO Sector in the coming years. I would also like to thank those States not party to the Convention such as the United States for its contribution to the UXO sector in the Lao PDR as well as China and India for their offer to provide assistance in clearance and victim assistance.

Altogether, the UXO Sector in the Lao PDR has mobilized about 20 million USD in 2010. And in the run-up to the First Meeting of States Parties, total contributions (confirmed or pledged) amounted to almost 42 million US dollars (a quarter of which should come through the Trust Fund managed by UNDP), many of which covering several years of operations.

Altogether, the CCM community has been very supportive. As you all know, the challenges facing my country are huge. But with your support and the dedication of UXO Sector operators, we can make a real difference in the lives of affected communities.

May I take this opportunity, once again, to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for those generous contribution and assistance provided to Lao PDR in her efforts to address UXO issues and earnestly hope that further and more assistance would be forthcoming in order to ensure that Lao PDR could fulfill its obligations under the Convention.

Thank you for your attention.