

Statement by Lao PDR
on Cooperation and Assistance
at the First Review Conference on Cluster Munitions 7-11
September 2015 in Dubrovnik, Croatia

Thank you Madam President for giving me the floor,

Lao PDR considers that, over the past 5 years, significant progress has been made in the implementation of the Convention. These achievements came as a result of collaboration, cooperation and assistance among States Parties, Signatory States, and supportive States to the Convention, International and Civil Society organizations and stakeholders, all of whom have committed to achieving a world free from cluster munitions. Without this collaboration and mutual support, we may not have accomplished the achievements made to date. In this light, cooperation and assistance are essential to achieving the noble objectives of the Convention.

The cooperation and assistance in the implementation of the Convention in the Lao PDR has taken many forms.

Firstly, the government of Lao PDR and UNDP established a multilateral UXO Trust Fund which allows development partners or donor countries to contribute financially support for two institutional of Lao PDR as National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector in Lao PDR (NRA) and Lao National Unexplored Ordinance Programme (UXO Lao) to address the problem of UXO in the Lao PDR. The main contributors through this window are: Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, European Union, Luxemburg and Belgium with more than 28 million USD. South Korea is a new donor for trust fund with total grant of 3 million USD over the period 2015-2017.

Secondly, the Government of Lao PDR has been working bilaterally with the United States, Japan, and China. Since 2011, the United States has provided a financial contribution with more than 35 million USD to UXO sector in Lao PDR and has announced this year increased from 12 million USD up to 15 million USD annually which covers UXO Lao's operations in 3 UXO-contaminated provinces in the south of Lao PDR and provides funding for clearance by INGOs. Japan has provided more that 30 million USD to the UXO sector as well and the trial project with Japan in order to develop new technologies for UXO clearance. In addition, Lao PDR also receives support from China, notably a non-State Party to the CCM, in the form of equipment for UXO victim assistance in Lao PDR, valued at more than 600,000 US Dollars.

Thirdly, the Government of Lao PDR is working with 15 non-profit and civil society operators in the UXO sector with the funding support more than 56 million USD and 12 commercial operators, both national and international with more than 42 million USD.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Lao PDR re-emphasizes that cooperation and assistance are essential to implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions. States Parties must also appreciate the value of this provision in helping other States Parties to address the problems of cluster munitions - particularly for those affected countries which, without significant international support, may not meet the obligations enshrined in the Convention. This also requires long-term cooperation and assistance from all members of the International Community.

We thank the president once again and also everyone here for your kind attention.