

Statement by Lao Delegation

On National Implementation Measures

At the 10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster

Munitions

Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon.

Firstly, on behalf of Lao delegation I would like to express our thanks to New Zealand, the Coordinators on National Implementation Measures Working Group, for their tireless efforts in this important work.

Over this past years, Lao PDR has taken a number of measures in the implementation of the CCM as well as updating national policies, which is a reflection of our strong commitment as an active member of the Convention. In particular, our revision of national survey procedures, development of organization and operations of National Regulatory Authority office for UXO/Mine action at central and development of the organization and operation at provincial and district level.

Furthermore, Lao government has approved decree on regulatory for UXO/Mine Action number 210, dated 29 July 2022. In this year 2022, the

national, provincial and district regulatory authority board will be developed to requirement needs. In addition, we will work closely with sectors concerns to set up the UXO village network which fundamental level to participate on area prioritization, monitoring and evaluation during operation and after land release which links to UXO clearance for development.

We see that capacity building for all levels including village level need to carry out. So, I hope that international donor would consider to support in order to implement the CCM, particularly article relate9

Mr. President,

Since the launch of the national and unique Sustainable Development Goal 18 “Lives Safe from UXO”, the Government of Lao PDR, in partnership with UNDP, has managed to reduce the number of casualties from cluster munitions year by year. Against this backdrop, it can be said that we have been moving towards the first goal in our national SDG 18 which aims to reduce the number of casualties to the lowest extent possible. However, in 2021, despite all best efforts, there was an upturn in casualties, against a wider trend downwards, from 23 casualties in 2020 to 63 in 2021. This, we believe, is related to socio-economic pressures in impacted communities brought on by restrictions aimed at halting the spread of the pandemic. Despite the challenges and obstacles, we are facing in implementing CCM obligation, the government of Lao PDR is totally committed to achieve the objectives of our national agenda, and international obligations. Lao PDR will continue to work closely with our development

partners, including donors, other State Parties to the CCM and international organizations, to ensure that phase III of the national strategic plan for UXO sector, the Safe path Forward III, will align with international instruments. I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all international stakeholders and hope that we will continue to have a fruitful cooperation in the future.

Thank you