

**Statement by Lao PDR**

**on Universalization**

**10th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

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Mr. President,

Excellencies,

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulation to your Excellency Mr. Aidan Liddle, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom to the Conference on Disarmament on your election as the President the 10th Meeting of State Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions. I am confident that under your able leadership, our meeting will be guided to a successful conclusion. I also wish on behalf of my delegation to express sincere thanks to the coordinators on Universalization, the Philippines and Spain, for their tireless efforts in undertaking this important work.

I also would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to countries for their joining the convention. The increased number of State Parties is a sign that the international norm of prohibiting cluster munitions is increasingly accepted.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR shares the vision of a world free of threats from the explosive remnants of war, especially cluster munitions. To realize this vision, the international cooperation and assistance is of paramount importance. The Lao PDR, therefore, commends the United Nations system and the international community for their work in the field of mine action, which has to a great

extent, addressed the humanitarian concerns caused by explosive remnants of war, including landmines and cluster munitions in many affected countries around the world.

As you are aware that the Lao PDR is one of the most heavily contaminated countries by Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) in the world. The legacy of the use of cluster munitions has created long lasting obstacles that continue to pose on the livelihood of our people and our national development. As the experience has shown, the clearance of UXOs will take a long time and require huge amount of resources.

Against this backdrop, the government of Lao has been actively promoting the Convention at national, regional and international levels. At country level, Lao PDR has worked to strengthen institutional mechanisms and raise public awareness on the cluster munitions issue through numerous avenues. For example, to commemorate the International Day for UXO and Mine Action on the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, the government highlighted the issue through a donor and media field visit in Xiengkhuang province, noted as the second most contaminated province in Laos. Similarly, to mark the entry into force of the CCM on the 1<sup>st</sup> of August, an annual public event is organized to mark progress of the Lao PDR in working towards CCM obligations.

Apart from those events, in late September 2022, the Government is going to host a UXO field visit for Embassies, line Ministers, Donors, International Organizations, NGOs and media.

At the International level, the call for the universalization of the CCM has been echoed at the UN General Assembly every year by our head of delegation and at other related conferences. The National report of the implementation of the CCM is submitted to CCM-ISU every year.

Mr. President,

Lao PDR will continue to actively promote the universalization of the Convention in order to prevent any further loss of humankind caused by UXOs. We congratulate those countries who have shown their commitment by joining the Convention and encourage them to fulfill their obligations provided therein. Most importantly, In the line Action 10 of the Lausanne Action Plan, We would like once again to take this opportunity to call up on those counties that have not yet acceded to the Convention to do so in order to achieve a world free from cluster munitions and other devices.

Thank you Mr. President