

Statement by the Delegation of the Lao PDR

At the 11th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention

on Cluster Munitions

11 to 14 September 2023, Geneva, Switzerland

Topic: National Implementation Measures

Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation would like to express our thanks to New Zealand, the Coordinators on National Implementation Measures.

The Lao PDR recognizes the grave humanitarian consequences posed by the presence of unexploded cluster munitions. As an affected country, we are committed to addressing this issue and ensuring the safety and well-being of our citizens.

We acknowledge the significance of having a robust domestic legal framework that aligns with the provisions of the CCM.

In light of this, we proudly demonstrate our commitment by highlighting the successful implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan which has been instrumental in guiding our actions and progress thus far. Over this past years, Lao PDR has taken a number of measures in the implementation of the CCM as

well as updating national frameworks, which is a reflection of our strong commitment as an active member state of the Convention. From 2019 to 2021, the Lao PDR, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, development partners, donors and UXO operators, had discussed the drafting of national legislation complying with the Convention on Cluster Munitions. By the end of 2022, the Decree on the Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)/Mine Action was adopted and this new Decree pertains the key provisions under CCM. This framework serves as the cornerstone for effective national implementation measures that not only adhere to the obligations set forth by the CCM but also safeguard our communities from the devastating impact of cluster munitions.

In this connection, to ensure the effectiveness of the national implementation measures, we currently enhance capacity and understanding of authorities at all levels on the new Decree and we plans to organize more workshops later this year targeting provincial and district level government officers and other stakeholders on promoting and ensuring the Decree implementation nationwide.

Mr. President,

Since the launch of the national Sustainable Development Goal 18 “Lives Safe from UXO”, the Government of Lao PDR, in partnership with multistakeholders, have put forward numerous measures implementing the CCM. We recognize that our efforts cannot be realized in isolation. We call

upon the international community to continue its valuable assistance in promoting and strengthening our national implementation measures. Technical expertise, financial support, and capacity-building initiatives are essential to ensure the complete eradication of cluster munitions from our territories, protect civilian populations from the risks associated with explosive remnants, and promote sustainable development.

In conclusion, we remain steadfast in our commitment to the CCM and will tirelessly strive to fulfill our obligations for the benefit of our nation and our people.

I Thank you