



**Statement by Mr. Daovy VONGXAY,  
Director General, Department of International Organizations,  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR  
At the 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,  
10-13 September 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

***Item 10 e: International Cooperation and Assistance***

**Madame President,  
Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to Lebanon and Switzerland for their excellent work as the coordinators on International Cooperation and Assistance.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide an update on the progress of international cooperation and assistance in implementing the Convention on Cluster Munitions in the Lao PDR. Since joining the CCM, our journey with the CCM has been fortified by the generous support from numerous bilateral and multilateral donors, who have provided both financial and technical assistance. For 2023, we have gratefully received approximately 43 million U.S. dollars from friendly countries such as Canada, Ireland, Japan, Luxembourg, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, United Kingdom, the U.S amongst others. INGOs such as HALO Trust, Handicap International, JMAS, MAG, NPA, and World Education have been instrumental in UXO clearance and in providing vital assistance to UXO victims and their families across all affected provinces in the Lao PDR.

However, given the extensive contamination and its ongoing impact, this level of support remains unpredictable for the foreseeable future to fully meet our obligations under the Convention. As such, there is a critical need to explore new approaches for raising awareness and diversify funding and resources mobilizing.

In this context, I am pleased to report that, thanks to the exceptional support and coordination provided by the UNDP office in the Lao PDR, we have enhanced our "Country Coalition" mechanism—referred to locally as the "UXO Sector Working Group." This group, which convenes biannually, serves as the primary coordination platform for all UXO stakeholders, facilitating more

effective implementation of UXO/Mine action and promoting transparency and efficiency across our efforts.

The UXO Sector Working Group serves as a dialogue platform for government, donor countries, international organizations, operators both national operator and NGOs to discuss their respective works, share information and experiences, including challenges and finding ways and means to improve the UXO/Mine Action work for the Lao PDR. The working group consists of five sub-sector working groups entitle “Technical Working Group (TWG) namely: (1) Survey and Clearance, (2) Victim Assistance, (3) Risk Education, (4) Information Management, and (5) the new one for Coordinating, Policy and Funding strategy: support the implementation of international obligations ( SDG 18, CCM, CCW included gender mainstreaming), Research and Development. This TWG is the platform for Head of Agencies to discuss, which the topic can be varied and subject to the circumstances presented. These Technical Working Groups meet quarterly and report to the UXO Sector Working Group. The co-chairs of the UXO Sector Working Group consists of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP and Donor countries, which will begin the rotational co-chairing alphabetically next year.

**Madame President,**

International cooperation remains a cornerstone of our efforts to mobilize resources and deliver much-needed assistance to communities in contaminated areas. On this note, we would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all countries and partners for continuing to extend assistance to us and We believe that we can count on the support of all development partners to further strengthen international cooperation and increase assistance, ensuring that lives in affected regions are safeguarded from the dangers of unexploded ordnance.

Thank you.