



**Statement by Mr. Bounpheng SISAWATH,
Acting Director General, Office of the NRA (National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine
Action Sector in the Lao PDR)**

**At the 12th Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster Munitions,
10-13 September 2024, Geneva, Switzerland**

Item 10 h: National Implementation measures

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

I would like to express our sincere thanks to the representatives of Iraq for the work as coordinator on National Implementation Measures.

Since the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) Board transitioned under the supervision of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we have seen significant legal reforms. One key change has been the improvement of the organizational structure of the NRA for UXO/Mine Action in Lao PDR, as stipulated by Prime Minister's Decision No. 152/PM, dated December 9, 2023. This decision established the National Committee for UXO/Mine Action, chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs, to address the ongoing issue of unexploded ordnance (UXO) in the country.

Additionally, the government has amended Decree No. 210/GoL, dated July 22, 2022, concerning UXO/Mine Action management. The revision process, initiated in October 2023, focuses on enhancing key sections related to oversight and administration. The decree is now in its final stages of review, following meetings held on August 8th-9th, 2024, to ensure coherence in its drafting. We expect the revised decree to be submitted to the government for approval and promulgation by the end of 2024.

In parallel with these legislative efforts, the UXO sector continues to operate in alignment with the National Strategy, "Safe Path Forward 3," the National Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 18), and the sector's annual work plan. Beyond legislative measures, robust national standards are essential to addressing the UXO issue in Lao PDR. In collaboration with the UNDP Lao Office, the NRA Office is expediting the revision of these national standards to ensure they align with International Mine Action Standards and reflect best practices. This review process is also set to be completed by the end of 2024.

Moreover, to enhance the planning and execution of UXO clearance activities, the NRA is working on developing comprehensive national guidelines and policies for prioritization planning. These guidelines will provide a consistent framework for operations across all sectors, with a specific focus on prioritizing clearance tasks. Once the technical details are finalized, a consultative meeting will be held to ensure these guidelines align with national legal requirements. This effort, too, is scheduled for completion by the end of 2024, with technical support from the UNDP Lao Office.

Madame President,

In conclusion, we reaffirm our commitment to upholding the CCM and to advancing the Lausanne Action Plan to address the UXO challenge more effectively. Thank you for your continued support, and we sincerely hope this cooperation will further strengthen as UXO/Mine Action work in Lao PDR becomes even more impactful and efficient.

Thank you