



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

by

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**Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Lao People's
Democratic Republic to the United Nations**

**During the Thematic Discussion on “Nuclear Weapons”
of the First Committee during the 74th Session of the United
Nations General Assembly.**

New York, 22 October 2019

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Vietnam on behalf of NAM and ASEAN respectively. However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

2. Nuclear weapon is one of weapons of mass destruction which is many times more powerful than it was before. Hence, the existence of such weapons continues to be a serious concern to international peace and security. Even though the international community has made tireless efforts to eliminate nuclear weapons, progress has been insignificant. Therefore, the international community must redouble its efforts to eliminate the nuclear weapons. On its part, the Lao PDR ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in September 2019.

3. Regional **Nuclear Weapon-Free-Zones** have significantly contributed to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime, thus, further enhancing international peace and security. Therefore, as ASEAN member state, the Lao PDR support efforts to preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The **Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)** is the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament. Therefore, we should spare no efforts to implement this Treaty. My delegation supports the implementation of the three pillars of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy. We look forward for the successful outcomes of the upcoming of the NPT Review Conference in 2020.

5. My delegation hopes that Member States who have not done so will accede to the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** so that its entry into force can be expedited, thereby, contributing to moving forward the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

6. The Lao PDR recognizes the significant role that the **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** plays in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. Therefore, the Lao PDR signed the IAEA Additional Protocol in November 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

7. In conclusion, we believe that with a strong political will and determination, genuine dialogues and negotiations, sooner or later, the aspiration of the international community make our world without nuclear weapons could be realized.

I thank you, Mr. Chair