



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

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**Statement**

**By**

**Mr. Ekto VONGPHAKDY**

**Delegate of the Permanent Mission of the Lao PDR**

**At the Thematic Discussion on Conventional Weapons,  
of the First Committee during the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the United  
Nations General Assembly**

**New York, 24 October 2019**

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

**Mr. Chair,**

2. As the affected country that still goes through the traumatic experience of humanitarian and developmental impact caused by the use of conventional weapons, the Lao PDR strongly supports and actively participates in the work of the international community on conventional weapons control and disarmament.

3. During the Indochina war, the Lao PDR was the most effected country by conventional weapons. Today, the country is still being contaminated by ERW. More than 270 million cluster sub-munitions were dropped on most parts of the country where up to 30 percent of them failed to detonate upon impact. Therefore, the ERW remains a major challenge to the socio-economic development and poverty eradication efforts in our country. To continue tackling this challenge in a systematic way, the Lao PDR launched the national SDG 18 “Lives Safe from UXO” as a rollover from the unfinished MDG9 which is mainstreamed into the 8<sup>th</sup> National Social and Economic Development Plan 2016-2020 and will certainly be rolled over to the subsequent national development plans as long as this major challenge remains.

**Mr. Chair,**

4. Furthermore, the Lao PDR is party to major international instruments in this field such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and 4 of its protocols, and the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM).

5. Over the past years, as a party to the CCM, the Lao PDR has taken various measures to implement this convention. The Lao PDR will continue to actively promote the universalization of the Convention bilaterally and multilaterally. We commend the countries that are committed to implementing the Convention.

6. In addition, the Lao PDR has humbly contributed to the Ninth Meeting of States Parties to the CCM in September 2019 in Geneva. We look forward to the commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the CCM and the 2nd Review Conference in 2020.

**Mr. Chair,**

7. The Lao PDR is concerned over a wide range of security and humanitarian impact arising from the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons because these weapons are widely used by criminals and drug traffickers. Therefore, my delegation supports the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in tackling this issue.

8. In conclusion, the Lao PDR is committed to continue actively promoting the universalization of the CCM by working closely with all States Parties and the international community. We count on countries and development partners to continue enhancing international cooperation and increasing assistance to affected countries to ensure that countries are free from UXO so that they can enjoy their rights to development and uplift the standard of living of their people.

**I thank you, Mr. Chair.**