



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

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**Statement**

**by**

**H.E. Dr. Khiane PHANSOURIVONG,  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao  
People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations  
At the General Debate of the First Committee on  
All Disarmament and International Security  
During the 74<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly**

**New York, 14 October 2019**

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. Let me begin by congratulating you and the members of the Bureau of the First Committee on your election.
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Myanmar on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and ASEAN respectively.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. **Nuclear weapons** remains a matter of serious concern to international peace and security because as long as nuclear weapons exist, the risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorised, or intentional nuclear weapon detonations remains, thus, exposing humanity and the environment to their catastrophic effects. Therefore, we believe that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only fundamental guarantee against their use or threat of use.
4. The Lao PDR supports the creation of regional **Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones** as they have significantly contributed to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Therefore, the Lao PDR supports the Southeast Asian region as a Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter.
5. Given the importance of **NPT**, it is essential for us to undertake, in good faith, the effective measures to fill the legal gap for the prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons, which are aimed at the full implementation of Article VI of the NPT. My delegation supports the implementation of the three pillars of Nuclear Non - Proliferation, Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy because we firmly believe that it serves the best interest of the international community.

**Mr. Chairman,**

6. The Lao PDR continues to support the efforts of international community to achieve the objectives of disarmament and non-proliferation. In this context, the Lao PDR ratified the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** in September 2019. It's hoped that other member states would do the same in order to

facilitate the early entry into force of the Treaty so that it can contribute to the realization of making our world free of nuclear weapons.

7. My delegation also welcomes the General Assembly Meeting to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September 2019. We need to redouble our efforts to raise public awareness and promote education on the danger of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction so that the future generations will not follow the path of acquiring weapons of mass destruction.

8. We also underline the importance of the entry into force of the **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)** which aims at promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. But the lack of progress remains a concern. We hope that those who have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

9. The Lao PDR welcomes the convening of the **OEWG** on developments in the field of information and communications technology in the context of international security (ICTs), which provides a good opportunity for member states of the United Nations to share views on this important issue, especially to further develop rules, norms and principles of responsible behavior of States in the field of information and telecommunication in the context of international security.

**Mr. Chairman,**

10. On our part, being a small country with limited resources, with a strong political will, the Lao PDR supports the international efforts on disarmament and international security. Therefore, the Lao PDR became state party to a number of international instruments on disarmament and is committed to fulfilling its international obligations under the international treaties that it's a party.

**Mr. Chairman,**

11. My delegation wishes also to touch on the danger of cluster munitions as its use creates an indiscriminate and dangerous long term impacts on people and development. Cluster munitions were the most heavily used in my country during the war. The unexploded ordnance (UXO) continues to kill and maim our people and hinder the development of the country. It is not known how many years it will take to clear UXO-contaminated areas as they were so large. Huge resources to support this work are needed. For the above reason, as you are aware, the Lao PDR

has been implementing the national SDG 18 entitled “Lives Safe from Unexploded Ordnance (UXO)”. Therefore, we call on the international community to support our efforts to implement SDG 18 and other SDGs as well.

**Mr. Chairman,**

12. Let me conclude by calling on member states to have a strong political will and concerted efforts in order to move forward to realize the ultimate goal of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control through dialogues and negotiations. If we can do so, we can focus our resources to poverty eradication and sustainable development.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.