



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

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**Statement**

**by**

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**Deputy Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic  
Republic to the United Nations**

**During the Thematic Debate on "Nuclear Weapons"**

**of the First Committee during the 72<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations  
General Assembly**

**New York, October 12, 2017**

**Madame Chair,**

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the 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.

**Madame Chair,**

2. 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 an 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 absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. In this connection, my delegation welcomes the opening for the signature of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to negotiate a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons on 20 September 2017. The Lao PDR attaches importance to this treaty. That's why the Lao PDR is one of the countries that signed this important Treaty on the first occasion. My delegation believes that its early entry into force will contribute significantly to the efforts of the international community towards achieving a nuclear weapon free world. In the same vein, my delegation also welcomes the General Assembly Meeting to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons in September 2017.

**Madame Chair,**

3. The NPT remains the cornerstone of the non-proliferation and disarmament regime as it is the only relevant international instrument that is being enforced and near universal. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to pursue, 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 the Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Use of Nuclear Energy that are well articulated in the Treaty as we strongly believe that it serves the best interest of the international community. These three pillars are meant to be implemented equally, yet discrepancy remains as the nuclear disarmament is lagging behind.

4. The entry into force of the CTBT, which the Lao PDR attaches great importance to, would certainly contribute to move forward the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, more than 20 years after its adoption, the CTBT remains ineffective. It is, therefore, the duty of the international community to ensure the entry into force of this Treaty which we are optimistic. In this context, we are hoping that countries that have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT, in particular, the remaining eight Annex 2 States.

Madame Chair,

5. The Lao PDR attaches great importance to the creation of the regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones, since we believe that it has significantly contributed to strengthening the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as the enhancement of the regional and global peace and security. As such, we are a strong supporter of preserving 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.

**Madame Chair,**

6. If we all have a strong determination and political will to do thing for the common good for our world and follow up with concrete action on what we said and agreed, only then we will achieve a world free from nuclear weapons as earnestly hoped for by most of the member states, if not all. Let's work harder and step forward together to achieve the common goal of the world without nuclear weapons.

**I thank you, Madame Chair.**