



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

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(Please check against delivery)

**Statement by
Mr. Daovy VONGXAY, Minister Counsellor,
Deputy Permanent Representative**

**At the 12th session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on
the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**

New York, 11-13 June 2019

Mr. President,

At the outset, allow me to extend my delegation's sincere congratulations to you and the members of the Bureau on your election.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Malaysia on behalf of ASEAN. However, I wish to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Having attached importance to the issue of persons with disabilities, the Lao PDR became party to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in 2009. Since then, policies have been implemented resulting in the enactment of the legislation related to persons with disabilities in the country. These include, among others, the issuance of the Decree on the CRPD in 2009, and most recently, the promulgation of the Law on Persons with Disabilities in May this year.

In addition, various organizations working to support persons with disabilities such as the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), the Lao Disabled People's Association (LDPA), Lao Disabled Women's Development Center (LDWDC), the Lao Association of the Blind, the Lao Autism Association and the Lao Association of the Deaf have been established.

Given the importance of this issue, the Government is working with these organizations, development partners, international organizations and NGOs to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities in order for them to participate in the national development, political, social and economic life both directly and indirectly so that they can live with dignity in the society.

Mr. President,

I wish to point out a fact that unexploded ordnance (UXOs) is a major cause of disabilities in the Lao PDR. Between 1964 and 2008, more than 50,000 people have fallen victim to UXOs, of whom around 30,000 died and 20,000 survived (including 13,500 people who have become disabled). Among these victims were women and children. The repercussions of the war, especially these UXOs, have become a major obstacle for the Lao people and socio-economic development.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR presented for the first time its national report on the implementation of the CRPD at the Human Rights Council in 2016, reaffirming that the purpose of CRPD is in line with our Constitution, related laws and policies while highlighting the commitment and progress made by the government of the Lao PDR in the CRPD implementation.

Let me conclude by stressing the need for enhanced support and cooperation from the international community for the developing countries, especially the least developed countries like the Lao PDR, which have numerous challenges to address, including the disability issue in our pursuit of sustainable development so that no one is left behind.

Thank you.