



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

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Statement

by

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the Lao People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations

During the Thematic Debate on "Nuclear Weapons"

**of the First Committee during the 73rd Session of the United
Nations General Assembly**

New York, 19 October 2018.

Mr. Chairman,

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

Mr. Chairman,

2. As nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth, their existence remains a matter of serious concern to international peace and security. Therefore, we firmly believe that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use, and that nuclear weapons will never be used again under any circumstances. In this connection, my delegation welcomes the Secretary General's Agenda for Disarmament and the General Assembly Meeting to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons held on 26th last September. We commend countries that signed and ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The Lao PDR signed this important Treaty in September last year and is now going through internal process for its ratification. 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

3. We believe that it is of great importance to redouble our efforts to raise public awareness and promote education on the danger of nuclear weapons so that the current and future generations will not follow the path of acquiring these dangerous weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (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 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 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 concurrently, yet discrepancy remains as the nuclear disarmament is lacking behind.

5. My delegation stresses the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which would certainly contribute to moving forward the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, more than two decades 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. In this context, we express our hope that countries that have not done so, in particular, the Annex 2 States would sign and ratify the CTBT.

Mr. Chairman,

6. The Lao PDR attaches great importance to the creation of the regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones as we firmly believe that it has significantly contributed to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as the enhancement of the regional and global peace and security. Therefore, as ASEAN member state, the Lao PDR strongly supports efforts to preserve Southeast Asia as a region free from nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ Treaty) and the ASEAN Charter.

Mr. Chairman,

7. We believe that if we all have a strong political will and determination to do things together for the common good for our world and the present and future generations by taking concrete actions on what we said and agreed, only then we will achieve a world free from nuclear weapons. Therefore, let us work harder and step forward together to achieve the common goal of the world without nuclear weapons.

I thank you for your kind attention.