



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

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Statement

by

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**At the Third Session of the Preparatory Committee
for the
2020 Review Conference of the
Treaty on the Non-Proliferation on Nuclear Weapons
(NPT)
General Debate**

New York, 30 April 2019.

Mr. Chairman,

1. I wish to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this important session. I am confident that under your stewardship, this session will yield tangible outcomes. I assure you of our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the distinguished representatives of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Myanmar on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) respectively. However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

3. The continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular, nuclear weapons remains a matter of serious concern to international peace and security. This is so because as long as nuclear weapons exist, there remains a risk of accidental, mistaken, unauthorised, or intentional nuclear weapon detonations and thus, exposing humanity and the environment to their catastrophic effects. For this reason, the Lao PDR reiterates its view that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Therefore, the international community has to redouble its collective efforts in our quest to make the world free from nuclear weapons.

4. Our consistent view is that 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, thereby, achieving and sustaining a world that is free from nuclear weapons. My delegation supports the implementation of the three pillars of nuclear non-proliferation, nuclear disarmament and peaceful use of nuclear energy as we firmly believe that by doing so 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 lacking behind

5. At the same time, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is also very important for the international community as it would certainly contribute to the promotion of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. For this reason, the Lao PDR signed the said Treaty. My delegation hopes that it will enter into force in the near future so that it can contribute to the realization of making our world free from nuclear weapons.

6. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which aims at promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation was adopted more than two decades ago but remains ineffective. It is, therefore, the duty of the international community to ensure the entry into force of this Treaty. We hope to see that those who have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT.

7. The Lao PDR attaches great importance to the creation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones as it has significantly contributed not only to the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation but to the enhancement of regional and global peace and security as well. Therefore, 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.

8. The Lao PDR recognizes the significant role that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) plays in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. Therefore, the Lao PDR signed the IAEA Additional Protocol.

Mr. Chairman,

9. I would like to end my statement by wishing this session every success in addressing the substantive and procedural matters for the 2020 Review Conference.

I thank you, Mr. Chair