



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

(Please check against delivery)

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 73rd Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 9 October 2018.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Let me begin by congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the First Committee. I wish to assure you our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.

2. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representative of Indonesia and the Philippines on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the Association of South East Asian Nations respectively.

Mr. Chairman,

3. Disarmament and non-proliferation are top of the agenda of the United Nations for many years. All Member States must support this in order to maintain and promote international peace and security. Hence, the Lao PDR attaches great importance to the work of the First Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The existence of weapons of mass destruction, in particular, 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. For this reason, we firmly believe that total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against their use or threat of use. Therefore, we commend countries that have signed or ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons which was opened for signing since 20 September 2017 here at the Headquarters of the United Nations. Today, it is gratifying to note that 69 and 19 countries have signed and ratified the said Treaty respectively. The Lao PDR is one of the countries that signed this important Treaty. My delegation hopes that the Treaty will enter into