



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

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Statement

by

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**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Lao
People's Democratic Republic to the United Nations,
at the General Debate of the First Committee during
the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly**

New York, 15th October 2015

Mr. Chairman,

1. At the outset, on behalf of the delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I wish to extend our warmest congratulations to you on your election as Chairperson of the First Committee as well as to the other members of the Bureau. I wish to assure you our full support and cooperation in the discharge of your duty.

2. My delegation associates itself with the statement made earlier by the representatives of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the statement delivered by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN). However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. Chairman,

3. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the United Nations since it came into existence after the Second World War ended in which its main objectives are to promote international peace, security and development cooperation, aiming at ensuring that all mankind live in peace and achieve social progress.

4. Disarmament and non-proliferation are top of the United Nations agenda that all Member States must support in order to maintain and promote international peace and security. In light of this, the Lao PDR attaches great importance to the work of the First Committee.

5. The existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), in particular, nuclear weapons remains a matter of serious concern to all people and countries. The Lao PDR consistently holds the view that only through the total elimination of nuclear weapons, the international community could ensure an absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Therefore, we welcome the General Assembly Meeting to Commemorate the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons held on 30th September 2015 and the 9th Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) on 29th September 2015 which aim at enhancing public awareness and promote education about the threat posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

6. We are all well aware that NPT has played a significant role in the field of nuclear disarmament. The three pillars of Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Nuclear

Disarmament and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy that are well articulated should serve the best interests of the international community. These three pillars are meant to be implemented equally, yet, discrepancy remains as the nuclear disarmament is lacking behind. The Lao PDR deeply regrets that the 9th NPT Review Conference could not reach consensus on that very important final outcome document which sets concrete and time-bound actions for nuclear disarmament.

7. The Lao PDR welcomes the successful conclusion of nuclear negotiations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and E3/EU+3, resulting in the finalization of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on 14 July 2015. We hope that the agreement will be implemented in full and in good faith.

8. The Lao PDR further welcomes the convening of the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and the 9th Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the Prospects for a Ban Treaty held in Bangkok.

9. The Lao PDR stresses the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) which aims at promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, 19 years after it opened for signature, the CTBT remains ineffective. This does not bode well for humankind. It is, therefore, the duty of the international community to ensure the entry into force of this Treaty as soon as possible and hope that those who have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT at the early date, in particular, the remaining eight Annex 2 States.

10. The creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones has significantly contributed to the strengthening of the global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation regime as well as the enhancement of regional and global peace and security. The Lao PDR wishes to reiterate that it is essential that Nuclear Weapons States recognize these zones and provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones. We also wish to reemphasize the importance of the full operation of the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and encourage the Nuclear Weapons States to accede to its Protocol.

8. The Lao PDR recognizes the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear technology, nuclear safety and nuclear safeguards. The Lao PDR has completed the internal process and signed the IAEA Additional Protocol in November 2014.

Mr. Chairman,

11. Although Indochina war ended four decades ago, the legacy of war continues to pose serious obstacles to our national development, especially to the agricultural production and the livelihood of the people, development of infrastructure as well as to other investment projects in the UXO contaminated areas in most of the provinces of the country. The clearance of UXOs will take long time and requires huge amount of resources. To address such a serious impact, that arises from the UXOs, the Lao PDR has been actively promoting the Convention on Cluster Munitions or Oslo Convention that in order to prevent further victimization of humankind. The First Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions took place in Croatia in early September 2015 to assess the progress and shortcomings in the implementation of the Convention. Taking this opportunity, the Lao PDR calls upon those countries which are not yet party to the CCM to accede to this universal Convention. At the same time, we also encourage friendly countries and international organizations to continue to provide funding and technical assistance to support our efforts to clear the UXOs in the contaminated areas. We look forward to the Sixth Meeting of the state parties to the Convention to be held in Geneva in 2016.

Mr. Chairman,

12. To date, the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation has progressed at a very slow pace. Expenditure on armaments has sky-rocketed while human races are struggling in extreme poverty. In this regard, the Lao DPR stresses the need for strong political will and collective efforts to overcome this difficult impasse and to reemphasize the multilateral approach to realize the ultimate goal of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control. Although a small country with limited resources, the Lao PDR is the state party to a number of international instruments on disarmament and is committed to the fulfillment of its international obligations under these treaties. The Lao PDR strongly believes that political will and flexibility of Member States are essential in order to make progress in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation as well as to overcome the challenges posed to the international community by nuclear weapons. It requires more effort from each and every country to work together to achieve the common goals so that the world would be free from fear and threats posed by all kinds of weapons. My delegation, therefore, will continue to contribute constructively to the work of this committee.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.