



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

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**Statement**

**by**

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**During the Thematic Debate on Agenda Item 51:**

**“Assistance in Mine Action” of the Fourth  
Committee session of the 70<sup>th</sup> United Nations  
General Assembly**

New York, October 16, 2015

**Mr. Chairman,**

I wish to express my appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on “Assistance in Mine Action”, which provides comprehensive assessment on the impact of mine action undertaken by the United Nations, including efforts to promote the universalization and implementation of the international legal instruments on mine action as well as progress in developing the coordination and rapid response mechanisms to address the threats of landmines and explosive remnants of war.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Lao PDR shares the vision of the United Nations for a world free of threats from the explosive remnants of war. To realize this vision, the international cooperation and assistance is of paramount importance. The Lao PDR, therefore, commends the United Nations system and the international community for their work in the field of mine action, which has, to a great extent, addressed the humanitarian concerns caused by explosive remnants of war, including landmines and cluster munitions in many affected countries around the world.

**Mr. Chairman,**

The Lao PDR is one of the most unexploded ordnance (UXO) affected countries in the world which still becomes obstacles to national development and affects the livelihood of the people, especially in the rural areas. Therefore, a huge amount of resources are required for their clearance.

For our part, the Government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) established the multilateral UXO Trust Fund to mobilize financial support for the two UXO-specific national institutions; namely, the National Regulatory Authority for UXO/Mine Action Sector (NRA) and the Lao National Unexploded Ordnance Programme (UXO Lao). Since it was established in 2010, development partners such as Australia, Canada, Ireland, New Zealand, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Luxemburg and Belgium have contributed more than US\$28 million to the Fund. Recently, the Republic of Korea has also contributed to Fund.

On a bilateral basis, the Lao Government has been working with the United States, Japan and China. Since 2011, the United States has provided more than US\$35 million to UXO sector in Lao PDR and from this year, the United States announced that such assistance will increase from US\$12 million to US\$15 million. Japan has provided more than US\$30 million to the UXO sector and conducted a trial project to develop new technology for UXO clearance. China has provided in kind assistance in the form of equipment for UXO victim assistance, valued at more than US\$600.000. India also provided some training for the demining personnel.

There are around 15 non-profit and civil society operators working in the UXO sector in Lao PDR with the funding support of more than 56 millions USD. Besides, there are 12 commercial operators, both national and international with more than US\$42 millions spent in the last 5 years.

Therefore, I would like to express our deep thanks and appreciation to the international community, including civil society organizations for such valuable support, assistance and cooperation which have contributed to our efforts to clear the UXOs in our country as reflected in the increased number of UXO that have been discovered and destroyed, the UXO-clear agricultural areas released for community use as well as the reduction of victims each year. But as the magnitude of this problem is so huge, I would like to call on the international community to provide more support and assistance to help us address this serious humanitarian concern so that our country can be rid of the remnants of war.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.