

Statement by Delegation of the Lao PDR  
on General Exchange at the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the  
Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention  
21-25 November 2022, Geneva.

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I would like to congratulate you on your election as the president of the 20<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the States Parties (20MSP) to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention.

Mr. President,

Although the Lao PDR is not yet a Party to the Mine Ban Convention, being one of the most affected countries by Explosive Remnants of War, the Lao PDR fully understands the real impact caused by these unfortunate legacies of war and has continued to pursue a firm policy and remains strongly committed towards global disarmament.

We are of the view that Mines and other Explosive Remnants of War all pose a great danger to the lives of innocent people and obstruct socio-economic development. Recognizing the importance of the Convention, the Lao PDR has always been a strong supporter of the humanitarian spirit of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which we consider a sister Convention to the Convention on Cluster Munition (CCM). This has been further reflected in our continued active engagement in all relevant regional and international efforts to promote the spirit of the Convention, including voting in favour of all relevant Resolutions tabled at the United Nations.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR has the distinction of being one of the most heavily bombed nations in the world, where more than two hundred seventy (270) million cluster sub-munitions were dropped on our land making one third (1/3) of the country territory contaminated with unexploded ordnances which continued to maim and kill innocent people and remain obstacles to the country's socio-economic development until today.

Being a least developed country with limited resources and capacity, it remains challenging for the Lao PDR at this stage to fully fulfill international obligations under various international conventions as we need to prioritize and maximize our national capacity focusing on the areas that pose greatest constraints to and severely hampered our national social-economic development efforts. Nevertheless, we are confident that with consistent support and assistance from the international community, the Lao PDR would be able to accede the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention in the near future.

On this note, the Lao PDR will continue to engage with all ERW affected countries especially in sharing experiences and best practices on implementing the CCM alongside with Mine Ban Convention.

I thank you, Mr. President.