



Statement by

H.E. Khonepheng THAMMAVONG, Ambassador Extraordinary and  
Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the UN in Vienna,

At the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of States Parties of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear  
Weapons (TPNW)

21 – 23 June 2022, Vienna, Austria

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***Agenda: General Exchange of Views***

**Mr. President,**

**Excellences,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

On behalf of the Government of Lao PDR, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Ambassador Alexander KMENTT, on your election as the President of the First Meeting of States Parties (MSP) and Lao PDR assure you our full support for your Presidency. I would also like to commend Austrian Government and the Secretariat team for their excellent work organizing this First MSP in this beautiful city of Vienna.

Moreover, I would like to express our heartfelt congratulation to Cabo Verde, Grenada and Timor-Leste for your timely ratification to the TPNW and expanded our membership to 65 States Parties.

**Mr. President,**

The Lao PDR always attaches great importance to international disarmament and non-proliferation regime and continuously supports international efforts in making our world free

from nuclear weapons. Lao PDR is of the view that nuclear weapons is a remaining threat to international peace and security that continues to pose a grave risk to human safety. In this regards, the Lao PDR express our concern of the existing of nuclear weapons and the continuation to proliferate and modernize these weapons of mass destruction. From the past history, we have witnessed the high risk of intentional, accidental, mistaken and unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, which can lead to indescribable catastrophic destruction to humanity and environment. Therefore, if this mass destruction weapons exist, it continues to pose severe threat to humanity and environment and we believe that only the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the ultimate goal to secure our world from nuclear catastrophe.

**Mr. President,**

Since the beginning, the Lao PDR, amongst other liked minded Member States, has joined force in driven the negotiation of the TPNW, despite the very complex negotiating process, we have proved that the humanitarian spirit in maintaining a peaceful world without nuclear weapon is strong as it has reflected in the adaptation of the Treaty in 2017. The fact that we, all Member States and observers, have gathered here today as to welcome the first international treaty banning nuclear weapon, marks a milestone in nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. More importantly, the entry into force of the TPNW in 2021 has officially illegitimate nuclear weapon and this is a crucial step toward the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

In this connection, once again I would like to reiterate our consistent policy that the Lao PDR does not have capacity nor ability and will not produce or develop nuclear weapon as well as possess or control any nuclear weapon under its jurisdiction.

**Mr. President,**

The Lao PDR reaffirm our commitment, as we have submitted the Declaration pursuant to Article 2 of the TPNW and We call on all States to join the TPNW in order to free our world from nuclear weapons and secure sustainable peace and security for everyone.

I thank you.