



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

(Please check against delivery)

Statement by

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**At the Thematic Discussion on Cluster 1: Nuclear Weapons
of the First Committee, the 77th Session of the General Assembly**

New York, 18 October 2022

Mr. Chairman,

1. My delegation aligns itself with the statements delivered by the distinguished representatives of Indonesia and Vietnam on behalf of NAM and ASEAN respectively.
2. In recent years, we have witnessed the greater risks of intentional, accidental, mistaken and unauthorized use of nuclear weapons, which could lead to indescribable catastrophic destruction to all humanity. Therefore, we believe that total elimination of nuclear weapons, is the only way to guarantee against their use, or threat of use, and secure our world from nuclear catastrophe. My delegation supports all international efforts in making our world free from nuclear weapons. We welcome the High-level Meeting of the General Assembly to Commemorate and Promote the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons held on 26 September this year.
3. The NPT remains the cornerstone of global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Unfortunately, the 10th Review Conference of NPT held in August this year, could not achieve preferable outcome. We, therefore, call on all States Parties to the NPT to renew their commitments towards the full implementation of the Treaty.
4. The Lao PDR is strongly committed to the TPNW and will continue to advocate the objective of nuclear disarmament. In this regard, we welcome the successful convening of the First Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW in Vienna in June this year, which has led to the adoption of the Political Declaration and the Vienna Action Plan, which will guide the implementation of the Treaty and pave the way for achieving the ultimate goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world.

Mr. Chairman,

5. As party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ), my delegation is of the view that the creation of regional Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones has made significant contribution to the strengthening of global nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation.

6. In this connection, the Lao PDR underlines the importance of the entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). We welcome six new ratifications in 2022, increasing the total number of ratifications to 176 countries. My delegation also hopes that Member States who have not done so, will consider ratifying the Treaty so that its entry into force can be realized.
7. The Lao PDR recognizes the significant role that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has played in nuclear non-proliferation and the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear technology, nuclear safety, and nuclear safeguards.
8. At the margin of the First Meeting of State Parties to the TPNW, the Lao PDR submitted the adaptation of the Amended Small Quantities Protocols (A.SQP) to IAEA Director General. A month later, we further submitted our SQP initial national report.
9. In addition, the Lao PDR will fully adhere to the Amended Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material and in consideration of joining the remaining relevant international instruments, which reflects our unwavering commitment to international disarmament regimes.
10. I wish to conclude by reaffirming the Lao PDR's firm determination to international disarmament and non-proliferation regimes, including all efforts towards making our world "free from nuclear weapons" and ensuring sustainable global peace and security. I thank you, Mr. Chair