



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

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**Statement**

**by**

**Mr. Soulikone SAMOUNTY**

**Third Secretary**

**Permanent Mission of the Lao People's Democratic  
Republic to the United Nations,**

**At Thematic Debate on “Nuclear Weapons”**

**of the First Committee during the 70<sup>th</sup> Session of the  
United Nations General Assembly**

New York, October 21, 2015

**Mr. Chairman,**

1. Since this is the first time I take the floor in this Committee, I would like to join previous speakers to congratulate you and member of the Bureau on the assumption of your offices
2. My delegation aligns itself with the statement delivered by the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM). However, I would like to make a few remarks in my national capacity.

**Mr. Chairman,**

3. The existence of weapons of mass destruction (WMD), in particular, nuclear weapons remains a matter of serious concern for the mankind. 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 which took place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015. This event helped to promote public awareness and education on the threats posed to humanity by nuclear weapons.

**Mr. Chairman,**

4. We are all aware that NPT is a cornerstone of nuclear disarmaments and non-proliferation and continues to play a significant role in international security and provides the foundation for international community efforts to achieve a world free from nuclear weapons. However, it is regrettable to see that at the 9<sup>th</sup> NPT Review Conference states party could not reach a consensus on the very important final outcome document. Our expectation was that the NPT should be strengthened rather than weakened. Therefore, we fervently hope that this kind of failure should not happen again in the future.
5. Nuclear weapons would, if they are used whether by intention or by accident, have catastrophic humanitarian consequences. Thus, it is imperative to prohibit the use of nuclear weapons. The Lao PDR, therefore,

welcomes the Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons which were organized in Oslo, Nayarit and Vienna and the 9<sup>th</sup> Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and the Prospects for a Ban Treaty that took place in Bangkok this year.

6. The Lao PDR stresses the importance of the entry into force of the CTBT which aims at promoting nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. However, almost two decades after it was opened for signature, the CTBT remains ineffective. It is, therefore, the duty of the international community to ensure the entry into force of this Treaty as soon as possible. Hence, we hope that those have not done so to sign and ratify the CTBT at the early date, in particular, the remaining eight Annex 2 States.

7. 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 the regional and global peace and security. To this end, the Lao PDR encourages the Nuclear Weapons States to accede to the Protocol of the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone sooner the better.

**Mr. Chairman,**

8. The Lao PDR strongly believes that political will and flexibility of the Member States are essential if we are to make progress in the field of disarmament and non-proliferation so that our common goal of a world free from nuclear weapons is achieved.

**I thank you, Mr. Chairman.**