



**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 “Conventional Weapons”
of the First Committee during the 70th Session of the
United Nations General Assembly**

New York, October 26, 2015

Mr. Chairman,

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,

The Lao PDR attaches great importance to humanitarian concerns caused by the use of conventional weapons. Therefore, we strongly support the efforts of the international community to address this issue by actively participating in the work of the international conventions on conventional weapons. The Lao PDR is state party to major international instruments in this field such as the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) and 4 of its protocols and the Convention on Cluster Munitions. The Lao PDR also supports the spirit and objective of the Mine Ban Convention as evidenced from our continued voting in favor of the UNGA resolution on the Mine Ban Convention despite the fact that my country is yet to be a state party to such convention. In the meantime, we welcome the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty. We are currently studying its text with the aim of joining the treaty in the future.

Mr. Chairman,

Although conventional weapons do not have the same level of effect as that of the weapons of mass destruction, the widespread use of such weapons continue to cause long-term consequences caused by the Explosive Remnants of War "ERW". The ERW not only inflicts serious humanitarian consequences on the civilian population but it also becomes major obstacles to the social and economic development of ERW-contaminated areas in many countries, including my own country.

The Lao PDR, therefore, concerns over a wide range of security and humanitarian impact arising from the illicit manufacture, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons. To address this problem, countries need to work together. To this end, my delegation supports the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in tackling this issue.