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**Statement by H.E Ambassador Kham-Inh KHITCHADETH,
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative,
Head of Delegation of the Lao PDR
At the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions
(Virtual Meeting: First Part 25 – 27 November 2020)**

Theme: UNIVERSALIZATION

Mr. President,

Distinguish Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to commend H.E Ambassador Felix Baumann and his team for their tremendous efforts in organizing the Second Review Conference of the Convention on Cluster Munitions amid this challenging time.

Allow me to recall that our First Review Conference in 2015 we had only 96 members and after five years of hard work, our members have expanded to 110 States Parties. Nevertheless, our goal from Dubrovnik Action Plan need to be reaffirmed and targets need to be incorporated into the Lausanne Action Plan. Lao PDR stands ready to support the work of the CCM in promoting its Universalization.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome our new members: Maldives, Sao Tome and Principe, Niue and Saint Lucia.

Mr. President,

We warmly welcome the adoption of the CCM resolution at 75th UNGA First Committee with zero objection, which marks an outstanding step toward the universalization of the Convention. Therefore, I commend fellow States Parties, International organizations and civil societies for their tireless effort and excellent work in promoting the Convention.

On our part, Lao PDR has consistently promoted the CCM through bilateral and multilateral platforms. Despite the global pandemic, the Lao PDR takes the opportunities of attending relevant virtual meetings to promote the Convention through our statements and remarks at the UN fora and ASEAN meetings. More importantly, we would like to commend our ASEAN fellow, the Philippines, for organizing the Webinar on military-to-military dialogue on promoting the CCM universalization in July this year.

To commemorate the 10th anniversary of the CCM, Lao PDR organized a high-level press release for diplomatic corps and International Organizations represented in the Lao PDR. Moreover, seminars and workshops for schools and universities have also been organized to emphasize the importance of UXO/Mine Action sector.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate our strong commitment to fully implement the CCM and continue to promote the Convention. The Lao PDR stands ready to work and share our experiences in all aspects of the Convention. I once again urge those countries that have not yet ratified or acceded the Convention to consider to do so in order to fulfil our objectives to protecting lives, empowering victims and enabling development for all.

Thank you.