

**Statement by the Delegation of the LAO PDR on Transparency Measures**

**Intersessional Meeting of States Parties to the Convention on Cluster  
Munitions**

**16-18 April, 2013**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

**On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to express our appreciation to the Coordinator for the Working Group on Reporting for its excellent work.**

**National reporting is one of the important obligations that States Parties have to fulfill under Article 7 to keep track of progress made and challenges which remain. I would like to congratulate those who submitted their reports on time and hope that those States Parties who have not done so to consider doing so as well.**

**Lao PDR has tried its best to fulfill its obligation with regard to content and by submitting the report on time. With regard to content, one of the main obstacles for us remains to determine the exact size of the contaminated area. As many of you know, according to the bombing data made available to us, over 2 million tons of bombs, including 270 million cluster munitions were dropped on Laos, and the 1997 Handicap International Impact Survey estimated that the contaminated area for all types of UXO could be as high as 87,000 Km<sup>2</sup>.**

**But I must stress that this was an estimation made 1997. With regard specifically to contamination by cluster munitions, bombing data indicated that there were approximately 70,000 individual cluster munition target locations, with each cluster munition strike producing a footprint of up to up to 12 hectares for an estimated total at the end of the war of approximately 8,470 square kilometers. The figure, of course, is now lower due to progress on clearance since the war. We are now trying to determine accurate figures through various methods, including improvements to survey methodology, but it will take time to get a clear national picture.**

**We are also improving the work of collecting data with respect to UXO type in order for us to be able to fully comply with the reporting standards.**

**This said, we believe it is impractical and not a good use of resources to have to try to further disaggregate data on cluster munitions, by type. There are more than 200 types of cluster munitions. This is very difficult after 40 years and very labour intensive.**

**In addition to Article 7 reports, Lao PDR reports to individual donors on the use of their valuable contributions. We commit to maintaining full transparency and accountability in the use of resources. We also intend to develop a capacity to measure development impact of our work in the UXO sector, which we know achieves great development as well as humanitarian results.**

**I think you for your kind attention.**