

STATEMENT

**by H.E. Mr. Phouthone MUONGPAK, Vice Minister of Public Health
of Lao PDR, Head of the Delegation of Lao PDR
at the 60th General Conference of IAEA,
27 September 2016, Vienna, Austria.**

**Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates
Ladies and Gentlemen**

At the outset, it is a pleasure and honor for me to represent the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR) to attend the 60th General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to you, H.E. Dato' Adnan bin Othman, Ambassador and Resident Representative of Malaysia on your election as the President of this significant meeting. I would like to assure you of my full support to and cooperation with you in the discharge of your noble task. I am convinced that under your presidency, the General Conference will be crowned with success.

The Delegation of the Lao PDR would like to join other delegations in warmly welcoming Saint Lucia, Islamic Republic of the Gambia as well as Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to become new Member States of the IAEA family.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2016 marks a historic milestone for IAEA as we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the Agency and its outstanding achievements and contributions thus far made to peace, security and development in regions and the world as a whole. Lao PDR recognizes the important role played by the Agency and expresses its full supports for the Agency in the undertaking of the Agency's mandates, as well as in contributing to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Lao PDR attaches a great importance to nuclear non-proliferation. Therefore, it has become a member of IAEA since 2011 and concluded with the Agency various nuclear related agreements, which are, among others, the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material-CPPNM; the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident; and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and the IAEA Additional Protocol. Nevertheless, the ratification of some agreements such as the IAEA Additional Protocol and Amendment to Small Quantities Protocols (SQP) requires

internal legal process in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Thus, we are now contemplating on internal legal procedures in order to ensure its effective implementation, once it becomes in effect. At the same time, improved infrastructure, capacity building and human resource development in the nuclear fields are needed for Lao PDR to ensure that it has enough capacity to fulfill its commitments and international obligations.

Lao PDR has actively engaged with the IAEA in various areas of cooperation, including in the field of technical cooperation. Thanks to its Country Programme Framework (CPF) for period 2014 to 2018 signed in 2014 and its conclusion of the Regional Cooperative Agreement (RCA) with the Agency in 2015, Lao PDR has been provided with support and assistance by the Agency through trainings and implementation of various IAEA technical cooperation projects in the Lao PDR, which have yielded positive impacts for the Lao PDR, involving, among others, capacity building, human resource development and improvement of infrastructure in the nuclear science and technology application area, as well as improvement of human health and agricultural production for food safety and security, hence contributing to socio-economic development of Lao PDR. Taking this opportunity, we would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to Mr. Yukiya Amano, Director General of IAEA and the Agency's Secretariat for their active and tireless works in providing valuable support and assistance of Lao PDR.

Lao PDR as current chair of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) for 2016 will continue to actively contribute to the strengthening of the implementation of the Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. Lao PDR reaffirms its commitments to working closely within the framework of ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM) in promoting high standards of nuclear safety, security and safeguard in the region, as well as with the IAEA for peace, security and prosperity.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government of Lao PDR focuses on the achievement of the goals of its 8th National Socio-Economic Development Plan, Development Strategy 2025 and Vision 2030, which include green growth and sustainable development, maintaining steady economic growth, achieving constant reduction of poverty and graduating from the least developed country status, among others.

The Lao PDR continues to face many challenges and impediments in the development of infrastructure and quality human resources, among others, thus requiring the continued support and assistance, from the international community, we are confident that with the strong determination of the Lao Government coupled

with the continued cooperation and assistance of the international community, including those of IAEA in the area of nuclear science and technology application, we will be able to achieve those goals.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you, the Director General, Mr. President, and other delegates a good health, happiness and success in your noble tasks.

I thank you, Mr. President.