

National Statement by the Lao PDR
Delivered by H.E Mr. Phoxay KHAYKHAMPHITHOUNE,
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs,
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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

My delegation would like to commend Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and the IAEA staffs for their tireless effort in advancing the Agency's work amid the global pandemic.

Mr. President,

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Lao PDR's membership to the IAEA and since it has joined the IAEA in 2011, the Lao PDR has received valuable technical assistance from the IAEA and its member states in various areas. Through the implementation of the Country Programme Framework (CPF) first phase 2014-2018 and second phase 2020-2025, the assistance provided has strengthened

technical capabilities in peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology in many areas such as on food security, nutrition, and environmental management competencies and supported the development of national infrastructure for radiation safety, including laboratory equipment. More importantly, the projects on the development and application of radiology and nuclear medicine has further improved diagnostic and treatment capacities of the health sector.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR, as a least developed country, has limited expertise in nuclear and radiation safety and security. With the continued support from the IAEA, in 2019, the Lao PDR was able to adopt the Law on Radiation Protection and Safety which lay down the standard for radiation protection and safety, including measures to prevent and mitigate risk and danger to lives and environment. In addition, the INSSP adopted recently will contribute to the Lao PDR in fulfilling its obligations under the NPT and other nuclear safety, security and safeguard regimes. In this connection, I am pleased to inform that the Lao PDR is in the final process of joining the Amendment SQP and the Amendment CPPNM. We are expected to conclude the process before the 10th NPT Review Conference next year.

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate our commitment to the NPT and related instruments as well as strengthening the cooperation with the IAEA and ASEANTOM in continuing our effort on implementing international obligations and reaching our common objectives on peaceful use of nuclear technologies in a safe and secured manner.

The Lao PDR is highly appreciative the 10 years of fruitful cooperation with the IAEA and I am convinced that our partnership will be strengthened and deepen in the years to come.

Thank you