

National Statement by the Lao PDR
Delivered by H.E. Mr. Khonepheng THAMMAVONG,
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Office and other International Organizations in Vienna, Head of Delegation,
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Madam President,

Excellencies,

As the outset, on behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, Madam Vilawan Mangklatanakul, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand on your election as President of the 67th Session of the IAEA General Conference, Vice President and Members of the bureau upon their elections. My delegation also would like to express our sincere congratulations and warmly welcome Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi on his approval by the General Conference as the Director General of IAEA for the second term.

Lao Delegation extents our condolence and sympathy to the Kingdom of Morocco, Libya and Tunisia from the devastating natural disaster.

Madam President,

The Lao PDR is a long-standing supporter and advocator for non-proliferation and disarmament regime, we truly believe that the TPNW as a complementary treaty to the NPT and CTBT as well as other existing instruments namely SQP, CPPNM,

UNSCR 1540 and relevant instruments form a comprehensive framework can guide us in this endeavor to strengthen peaceful uses and moving toward a world free of nuclear threats.

In this regard, Lao PDR would like to stress the importance of the central role of the IAEA as it serves as an international platform for cooperation, facilitating the transfer of technology and knowledge for peaceful purposes and most importantly, ensuring that this technology will not be use against humanity but should be use as a tool to further enhance economic and social aspect of development.

Madam President,

We are proud to say that our success has been significantly aided by the IAEA in our pursuit of social-economic development progress where nuclear technology has been a significant driver across various sectors including health, industry, and agriculture and with the Country Programme Framework (2020-2025), the current Technical Cooperation Programme which has provided approximately eight hundred thousand Euro (865,049 Euro), this initiative has been instrumental in broadening our understanding, enhancing our capabilities, and strengthening our implementation of nuclear technology in a peaceful, safe, and secure manner nationally.

In this regard, the Lao PDR would like to express our appreciation to the IAEA as the central agency guiding member states through its experience, expertise in order to ensure safety, security and safeguards of nuclear application.

Madam President,

As a small developing country, Lao PDR still faces challenges in implementing international frameworks such as insufficient capacity and constrained resources. However, in compliance with related international instruments, the Lao PDR is undertaking numerous measures including our plan to issue various regulations, to draft the second INSSP and to amend the Law on Radiation Protection and Safety (2019) in the coming years, to be more relevant to the current circumstance.

Lao PDR will not be able to fully fulfill all the international obligations without the support and assistance from the international community. In this regard, we would like to highlight one of our recent cooperation with the UNICRI (United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute) which has increasingly provided a capacity building programme to strengthen the nuclear and radiological safety and security in the country.

We also would like to seek the continue assistance and support from the IAEA, member states and relevant stakeholders' especially in the field of capacity building. Through advanced training, technical guidance, and shared best practices, which will help to further strengthen our national radiological and nuclear applications. We reiterate our commitment to these principles and pledge to uphold all our obligations under the IAEA's framework. Lao PDR also believe that through collective effort and shared responsibility, we can achieve our common goals more effectively. We urge all member states to continue to render its support to the IAEA, to foster a world where nuclear technology is used responsibly for the benefit of all.

On the final note, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to the IAEA and Member States for the unwavering commitment. We remain steadfast in our support and collaboration with the Agency and all stakeholders and look forward to further strengthening our partnership.

I thank you.