



Statement by

H.E. Mr. Khonepheng THAMMAVONG,

Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

at the IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security: Shaping the Future

20-24 May 2024, Vienna, Austria

Co-Presidents,

Director General of the IAEA,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I would like to join other speakers in expressing our deepest condolences to the Republic of Iran for their tragic loss.
2. At the outset, the Lao PDR would like to commend the IAEA and Co-presidents for convening the fourth IAEA International Conference on Nuclear Security and for attaching importance to strengthening the nuclear security framework globally.

Co-Presidents,

3. The Lao PDR is a long-standing supporter and advocator for non-proliferation and disarmament regime. We believe that the TPNW as a complementary treaty to the NPT and CTBT as well as other existing instruments form a comprehensive framework that can guide us in this endeavor to strengthen peaceful uses and move toward a world free of nuclear threats.
4. In this regard, my delegation 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 used against humanity but should be used as a tool to further enhance economic and social aspect of development.

Excellencies,

1. Lao PDR continues to strengthening our commitment through the adoption of the Law on Radiation Protection and Safety in 2019, first INSSP in 2021 and the amendment to the Small Quantities Protocol (SQP) in June 2022 and ratified the amendment CPPNM in April 2023. In compliance with related international instruments, the Lao PDR is undertaking numerous measures including the recent adoption of the Decree on Dual-use good (November 2023) and the Ministerial Regulation on Radiation Sources Protection and Safety (April 2024). Furthermore, We plan to draft the second INSSP and to amend the Law on Radiation Protection and Safety (2019) in the near future, to be more relevant to the current circumstance.
2. At the regional level, the Lao PDR follows and supports the principles of the SEANWFZ Treaty and ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). In this regards, we are pleased to host the annual ASEANTOM this year on 15-16 August. We highly value the cooperation and collaboration in exchange best practices, promote peaceful application of nuclear science and technology and support the full and effective implementation.
3. Like may others, the 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 many 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.
4. On this note, 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 therefore look forward to receiving the valuable support to implement the relevant areas and obligations.
5. In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our commitment to these principles and pledge to uphold all our obligations under the IAEA's framework. The Lao PDR also believes 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.

I thank you.