

National Statement by
H.E Mr. Khonepheng THAMMAVONG,
Ambassador/ Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR

At the Ministerial Conference on Nuclear Science, Technology and Applications
and the Technical Cooperation Programme
26 to 28 November 2024, Vienna

Co-Chair,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the Lao delegation, I wish to express our appreciation to the IAEA for organizing this important Ministerial Conference. My delegation would like to congratulate the Republic of Finland and Republic of Ghana as the Co-Chair of this Meeting. This forum underscores the critical role of nuclear science and technology in addressing the global challenges of our time, including health, food security, water resource management, and climate change. The delegation of the Lao PDR would like to congratulate and align itself with the member states of IAEA to adopt the Ministerial Declaration of this meeting.

The Lao PDR acknowledges the immense potential of nuclear techniques as an integral part of the solutions needed to tackle these pressing issues. We commend the Agency's ongoing efforts to strengthen international cooperation, explore innovations, and highlight the indispensable role of nuclear science and technology in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Co-Chair,

The Lao PDR is committed to advancing the peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology to support our development goals. Through the IAEA's technical cooperation program, the Lao PDR has benefited greatly from collaborative projects that address national development priorities. With the Country Programme Framework (CPF) 2020–2025, the Lao PDR has been implementing 13 projects across various sectors. These initiatives not only foster collaboration with international partners but also contribute to improving the well-being of our citizens and strengthening our national resilience. As a result, we have made significant strides in leveraging nuclear techniques across key areas, including: enhancing food security and combating malnutrition, managing surface and groundwater resources, strengthening radiology and nuclear medicine capabilities, addressing animal diseases, and Promoting nuclear education to build national expertise.

However, we recognize that sustained progress requires expanded partnerships and greater investment in nuclear education and infrastructure. In this regard, we are actively reviewing the CPF's outcomes to ensure alignment with our evolving national needs and we welcome all partners to extend our collaboration into the third phase of the Country Programme Framework for the period of 2026–2030.

Co-Chair,

For developing countries like the Lao PDR, international cooperation and technical assistance are vital to fully harnessing the benefits of nuclear science and technology. Despite significant progress, many nations face challenges in building the necessary infrastructure, expertise, and capacity to implement nuclear solutions effectively. It is therefore imperative that we strengthen our collective efforts to ensure that the benefits of nuclear technology are accessible to all. It is important that member states, international organizations, and the IAEA continue to enhance their support to developing nations. This includes providing technical expertise, capacity-building programs, and financial resources to help bridge the gaps in technology transfer and implementation that are suitable for national context.

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

In closing, the Lao PDR remains steadfast in its commitment to the IAEA and its mission to promote the peaceful use of nuclear science and technology. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all member states and partners for their unwavering support extended to us. We believe that through our collective action and innovation, we can achieve meaningful progress toward a more sustainable and prosperous future for all.

Thank you.