



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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STATEMENT

BY H.E Dr. KHIANE PHANHSOURIVONG

**AMBASSADOR, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LAO
PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 2015 REVIEW CONFERENCE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE TREATY ON THE NON-PROLIFERATION OF
NUCLEAR WEAPONS**

NEW YORK, 29 April 2015

Madam President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Delegation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, I would like to extend our deepest condolences and sympathy to the people and Government of Nepal for the loss of lives and properties caused by the major earthquake that devastated the country on 25 April.

My delegation wishes to join previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Feroukhi on her appointment as president of this important Review Conference. We are confident that under her able stewardship, the conference will yield tangible outcomes.

Madam President

My delegation associates itself with the statements made by Iran and Myanmar on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) States Parties to the NPT and the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) respectively. However, I would like to make a few important remarks in my national capacity.

The continued existence of weapons of mass destruction, particularly, nuclear weapons remains a matter of fear and concern of their possible use or threat of use, in particular in the context of growing interest by terrorist and non-state actors in the acquisition of such weapons. The Lao PDR reiterates the view that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is the only absolute guarantee against the use or threat of use of such weapons. Therefore, we have to redouble our collective efforts in our pursuit to make the world free from nuclear weapons.

Over 4 decades, NPT has played a significant role in the field of nuclear disarmament. The three pillars of Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Disarmament and Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy that are well articulated should serve the best interests of the international community. These three pillars are meant to be implemented equally, yet, discrepancy remains as the nuclear disarmament is lacking behind. Thus, this Review Conference provides a good opportunity for us to discuss the way forward and achieve progress.

At the same time, we witness the continued persistence of some undue restrictions of exports to developing countries of materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes. As such, we are of the view that non-proliferation control arrangements should be transparent and non-discriminatory and respect the inalienable right of the States Parties to the NPT to develop, research, produce and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in accordance with Article 4 of the Treaty.

Madam President,

Universal adherence to the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) would certainly contribute to the promotion of Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation. Therefore, we welcome the recent ratification of the Treaty by Brunei

Darussalam, Chad, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea Bissau, Guinea, Indonesia and Niue which is an important step towards the universalisation of the Treaty and hope that those that have not done so would sign and ratify the said Treaty.

The creation of Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zones also contributes significantly to the strengthening of the global Nuclear Disarmament and Nuclear Non-Proliferation, thus, further contributing to the promotion of regional and global peace and security. We, therefore, support the establishment of the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones. Therefore, we wish to reiterate that it is essential that Nuclear Weapons States adhere to these zones and provide unconditional assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons to all States of the zones. We also wish to reemphasize the full operation of the Treaty on the South-East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) and encourage the Nuclear Weapons States to accede to the Protocol to the SEANWFZ Treaty.

We welcome the convening of Conferences on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Oslo, Nayarit, Vienna, and the recently concluded Regional Roundtable on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons and Prospects for Ban Treaty in Bangkok, which was the third such roundtable to be held in the ASEAN region and the ninth globally. This new development would certainly help to strengthen our collective efforts in pursuit of nuclear weapons free world.

Madam President,

In conclusion, though huge challenges remain as mentioned above, the Lao PDR believes that with a strong political will and determination, the international community will one day be able to achieve the ultimate goal of the Treaty, that is: a world free from nuclear weapons.

My delegation wishes this Review Conference a success.

Thank you, Madam. President.