

**National Statement by the Lao PDR**

**Delivered by H.E. Mr. Surioudong SUNDARA, Deputy Minister of Education  
and Sport, Head of Delegation,**

**The 66<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of the General Conference of the IAEA**

**26-30 September 2022, Vienna, Austria**

**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Distinguished Delegates,**

At the outset, the Lao delegation would like to take this opportunity to congratulate you, H.E. Mr. Alessandro Cortese, Ambassador of Italy on your election as the President of the 66<sup>th</sup> Session of the IAEA General Conference. I would like to commend you and your team in organizing this important meeting. I am confident that with your extensive experience, you will lead the conference to a great success.

**Mr. President,**

Taking this opportunity, my delegation would like to commend Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi and IAEA colleagues for your active and tireless undertakings towards achievements that fosters international cooperation for peaceful nuclear applications and as the organization explicitly entrusted with key nuclear verification responsibilities. The Lao PDR welcomes the progress and achievement of the agency over the past year and we have worked tirelessly to

overcome existing and emerging challenges to continue serving our also common objective of the peaceful application of nuclear science and technology.

**Distinguished Delegates,**

The Lao PDR has continued to receive excellent cooperation and assistance from the IAEA under various frameworks in the area of science, agriculture, sustainable energy and public health including animal health through capacity building programmes and under the Technical Cooperation Framework. We have been implementing the Country Programme Framework (CPF) between the Government of the Lao PDR and the IAEA first phase from 2014 to 2018 and second phase from 2020 to 2025, which has been contributed to strengthening capacities in peaceful applications of nuclear science and technology supporting food security, addressing malnutrition, and enhancing surface and groundwater management competencies. More importantly, the project on the development and application of radiology and nuclear medicine has improved diagnostic and treatment capacities for communicable and non-communicable diseases supporting our Hospital and National Animal Health Laboratory.

**Mr. President,**

Lao PDR always attaches great importance to international disarmament and non-proliferation particularly the NPT, CPPNM, TPNW, other related instruments and Lao PDR has actively implemented UNSC resolution 1540 and two National Reports have already been submitted. In compliance with these international frameworks, the Law on Radiation Protection and Safety 2019 has been implemented and it is an on-going effort to develop Ministry level legal framework for strengthening the implementation of the legislation as to be a guideline for

implementers. To implement Nuclear Security measures, Lao PDR has adopted the Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) in July 2020. In recent months, we have adopted the Modified SQP and successfully submitted the initial report to the IAEA in July 2022.

As a small developing country, we still face with challenges in implementing international frameworks such as the insufficient capacity and constraint resource. Lao PDR will not be able to fully fulfill all the international obligations without the support and assistance from the international community. Therefore, we strongly emphasize that international cooperation and assistance is the core and need to be strengthened especially during this difficult time. On our part, we are going to work closely with the IAEA and international communities in continuing our effort on implementing international obligations and reaching our common objectives as well as the globe on the peaceful use of nuclear science and technologies.

**Mr. President,**

I would like to reiterate our commitment to the IAEA and relevant international frameworks. Lastly, the Lao PDR would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to all countries and international organizations for consistently rendering supports to us and we continue to count on IAEA and its member countries to enhance cooperation and assistances in making tangible progress toward achieving our common objectives of peaceful uses of nuclear science and technologies in contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

I thank you, Mr. President