

National Statement
by H.E. Mr. Khonepheng THAMMAVONG,
Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR
to the International Atomic Energy Agency,
Head of the Lao Delegation

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Mr. President,
Excellencies,

At the outset, on behalf of the Lao Delegation, I would like to extend our warm congratulation to you, H.E. HAM Sang Wook, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Republic of Korea, on your election as President of the 68th Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference. I am confident that the General Conference will be conducted in a smooth and productive manner under your able leadership and guidance. Furthermore, I would like to congratulate to Federal Republic of Somalia and the Cook Islands on their timely signature to the IAEA.

The Lao PDR commends the IAEA for its tireless efforts in advancing the peaceful use of nuclear energy for development while ensuring global safety and security. The IAEA's mission is particularly vital today, as we face numerous global challenges, including climate change, and concerns about energy and food security.

Mr. President,

The Lao PDR has always attached great importance to the international disarmament and non-proliferation regime and remains a steadfast supporter of global initiatives aimed at creating a nuclear weapons-free world. We have long been a committed

party to the NPT, TPNW, the CPPNM and its Amendment and related frameworks. Our advocacy for these key instruments underscores our commitment to promoting disarmament, and ensuring that nuclear energy is utilized for peaceful and developmental purposes.

In this context, the Lao PDR is pleased to announce that, in 2024, we have officially joined other member states in adopting the IAEA's Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources. Additionally, we have taken concrete steps to implement safety measures, including the issuance of a Ministerial Regulation on Radiation Source Protection and Safety. Later this year, we will begin the process of reviewing the implementation of the INSSP and preparing for consultations on the second INSSP. Our authorities, in collaboration with the IAEA, will organize these consultations in Vientiane from October 22-25, 2024. The second INSSP will build on the success of the first plan, focusing on addressing national priorities and strengthening our capacity to meet both existing and emerging challenges

At the regional level, the Lao PDR upholds the principles of the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone (SEANWFZ) Treaty and actively supports the ASEAN Network of Regulatory Bodies on Atomic Energy (ASEANTOM). In cooperation with the IAEA, the Lao PDR had the honor of hosting the 11th Annual Meeting of ASEANTOM on August 15-16, 2024. During this meeting, participants took note of updates on regional projects, such as the ASEAN-EU cooperation project to establish a Regional Early Warning Radiation Monitoring Network, and ASEANTOM's Five-Year Work Plan (2024-2028), which supports the implementation of the SEANWFZ Plan of Action (2023-2027).

As a least developed country with limited nuclear technologies usage, the Lao PDR places significant value on the IAEA's role in promoting knowledge transfer, technical cooperation, and capacity-building for the peaceful applications of nuclear energy. Through our collaboration with the IAEA, we have successfully implemented projects that use nuclear technology to improve agricultural

productivity, enhance food security, and combat malnutrition. These advancements highlight the transformative potential of nuclear science in agriculture and public health.

In the health sector, the Lao PDR has prioritized the strengthening of nuclear medicine and radiotherapy services. With IAEA's support, we have enhanced our national capacity to diagnose and treat non-communicable diseases, particularly cancer. The establishment of new radiology and radiotherapy facilities has enabled us to offer better care to our citizens.

Additionally, the Lao PDR has made significant strides in developing a robust regulatory framework for nuclear safety and security. Through IAEA technical cooperation, we have improved our national radiation safety infrastructure, ensuring that the use of nuclear technology in our country meets the highest standards of safety and security. The Lao PDR has also benefited from the IAEA's training programs, fellowships, and expert missions, which have greatly contributed to our national capacity in this field.

Mr. President,

Looking ahead, the Lao PDR remains committed to working closely with the IAEA to explore new applications of nuclear technology that can drive socio-economic development, improve public health, and protect the environment in order to supporting Atoms4Food and Rays of Hope. In this regard, we kindly seek continued assistance and support from the IAEA, member states, and relevant stakeholders, particularly in the area of capacity building, advanced training, technical guidance, and shared best practices will further enhance our national capabilities in radiological and nuclear applications.

In conclusion, the Lao PDR expresses its deepest gratitude to the IAEA and member states for the unwavering support and partnership.