Statement by
Delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic on
General Exchange of Views at the
Fifth Review Conference of the Convention on Prohibitions or
Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which
May be Deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to Have

Madam President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Delegation of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the President of the Fifth Review Conference of CCW. We offer you our full support and cooperation in discharging your duty.

Madam President,

Fifth Review Conference of CCW provides us a precious opportunity for High Contracting Parties to the Convention to assess the status of the implementation of CCW and to find the ways to strengthen both the credibility and the reliability of the CCW’s protections of civilians. Since the last review conference, the Convention has achieved some positive results. Among the remarkable achievements include: the number of States joined the CCW and its Protocols have increased, and the substantial increase in its States Parties. The Lao PDR has undertaken its utmost efforts to meet its obligations under the framework of CCW.

Since we joined the Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War in 2012, we have attained some achievement in meeting the objectives of the Protocol. More than 300,000 of ERW have been destroyed; 200,000 hectares of land contaminated by ERW have been cleared; 750 victims have been given assistance with medical and rehabilitation and some of them were reintegrated into social and economical order; and awareness about the risk of ERW has been widely raised and conducted in more than 2,000 villages that was benefitted by more than 1 million of audience. These achievements came as a result of consistent efforts,
dedication and collaboration of all High Contracting Parties to the CCW, international and civil society organizations, development partners and stakeholders that committed to addressing the ERW caused to civilians in my country. The achievement could not be possible without their support and assistance. On behalf the Lao Government and people, I would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all High Contracting Parties, donor countries, international organizations for their support and assistance provided to address the daunting challenges posed by ERW in the Lao PDR that goes beyond its national capacity due to limited funding, human resources and modern technologies.

**Madam President,**

The Lao PDR as the most effected country per capita on earth by UXO contaminated reaffirms strong commitment to work with all High Contracting Parties to the Convention and international community in fulfilling the obligations and objective of the CCW and its Protocols. We hope that during this Fifth Review Conference, we will be able to take stock of what has been achieved in the implementation of the Convention and to identify measures to further facilitate the implementation of the Convention and its Protocols. On this note, I wish the Fifth Review Conference a great success.

**I thank you for your kind attention.**