

Draft

Comment on Lausanne Action Plan (LAP)

At the First Preparatory Meeting for the Second Review Conference

29 June 2020, Geneva, Switzerland

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Mr. President,

I would like to begin by commending you and your team on preparing the Elements for the Lausanne Action Plan and organizing this First Preparatory Meeting amid the challenge of the current global pandemic.

The Lao PDR agrees with the proposed overall structure of the Lausanne Action Plan, which retained most of the Dubrovnik Action Plan while adding the Cross-cutting element as a new section and splitting the Clearance and Risk Reduction Education into two segments separately.

On a more specific note, I would like to reflect our country's point of view on two main topics as follows:

Firstly, the Cross-Cutting Section should reinforce the consistency of the Action Plan and contains principles guiding member states on the implementation of the Convention inclusively. At this stage, Lao PDR agrees that having solely main principles for this Section will be more appropriate for the structure. Against this backdrop, as one of the most Cluster Munitions affected countries, Lao PDR has adopted an additional Sustainable Development Goal, called SDG 18 "Lives Safe From UXO" since 2016. This has highlighted the national ownership while recognizing the different needs and priorities of member states.

Secondly, in order to update the thematic segments from Dubrovnik Action Plan to Lausanne Action Plan, Lao PDR supports the content of having "SMART" Actions where all of the Actions of the eight (8) segments are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-framed. Because these are the core principles of the Convention and we believe that by having such precise and practical Actions, it will lead to a more effective implementation of the Convention by all Member States.

To conclude, Lao PDR stands ready in working closely with all Member States to reach consensus in producing a practical and effective Action Plan which will ensure that Convention will be implemented fully and effectively and I looking forward to having a fruitful discussion with you all.

I thank you.

*NOTE: under Lausanne Action Plan, eight (8) thematic segments are 1. Universalization, 2. Stockpile destruction, 3. Survey and Clearance, 4. Risk Reduction Education, 5. Victim assistance, 6. International cooperation & assistance, 7. Transparency measures, 8. National implementation measure.*