



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC  
TO THE ORGANIZATION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL  
WEAPONS**

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***Statement by H.E Ambassador Manorom PHONSEYA,  
Permanent Representative of the Lao PDR to the OPCW  
at the Third Special Session of the Conference of the States Parties  
to Review the Operation of the Chemical Weapons Convention***

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***The Hague, 8-19 April 2013***

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, I would like to extend my warmest congratulation to you on your election as chair of the Third Review Conference of the States Parties to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). I am confident that under your able leadership and extensive experience, the Review Conference will be guided to a successful conclusion. You can rest assure of my delegation full support and cooperation in discharging your duty. I would like also to associate myself with the statement made by H.E. the Iranian Foreign Minister on behalf of the NAM CWC States Parties and China.

Mr. Chairman,

The Third Review Conference is an excellent opportunity for all of us to take stock of the progress made since the Second Review and to identify challenges remained for all of us to address in the future.

My delegation is of the view that CWC remains one of the most successful conventions of disarmament. This reflects in its near universality and a strong OPCW that keep the objective and spirit of the Convention alive. Since the Second Review Conference in 2008, 5 more countries have joined the treaty making its states parties to a total of 188. This achievement was the outcome of our joint efforts and the strong secretariat with the ultimate aim of making the world free from chemical weapons. Nonetheless, we have to work harder to make the remaining 8 states to join the convention to fulfill our objective of a universal adherence.



Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve the world free of chemical weapons, all existing chemical weapons stockpile should be destroyed and old and abandoned chemical weapons eliminated. My delegation appreciates the progress made in this regard. To date, around three-quarters of the declared stockpiles have been destroyed. We congratulate those states parties who have completed the destruction of their chemical weapons. However, much remained to be done and we urge those states parties who have not done so to step up their efforts to eliminate those existing chemical weapons in due course. In addition, we need strong commitment and concerted efforts to prevent terrorists to access chemical weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

As a state party, the Lao PDR has tried its best to fulfill its obligations under the convention. We submitted our initial report. We established national authority. We amended our penal code to include crime on chemical weapons. With the aim to enhance its cooperation with the OPCW, on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012, the Lao Government signed the Agreement with the OPCW on the Privileges and Immunities. This agreement will facilitate and ensure the effectiveness of the OPCW's personnel to carry out their duties in my country and also reflect the will and commitment of the Lao Government to work with OPCW in this regard.

In addition, we are participating in various meetings and workshops undertaken under the framework of OPCW. This has enabled our authorities concerned to gain necessary knowledge and expertise in carrying out our obligations under the Convention. In this connection, let me thanks OPCW for the cooperation and assistance provided to us and hope for the continued assistance.

In conclusion, May I wish the Third Review Conference a success and the world free from chemical weapons be realized in the near future.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

My delegation would like to request this statement be considered as an official document of this Conference.

