Statement by Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith, 
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of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic 
on General Exchange of Views at the Fourth 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 Indiscriminate Effects 
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Mr. President,

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

Mr. President,

This Review Conference provides us a good opportunity to assess the status of the implementation of CCW and to find solutions to various pending matters. Since the last review conference, the Convention has achieved some positive results. Among the
remarkable achievements is the entry into force of Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and the substantial increase in its States Parties. The Lao PDR has undertaken its utmost to meet its obligations under the framework of CCW. Furthermore, we have also made a significant progress towards the accession to Protocol V on Explosive Remnants of War and as we are at the final stage of domestic process for ratification, we hope to be able to deposit our instrument of consent to be bound in the coming months.

However, it is regret to note that there is still an impasse in Protocol VI negotiation on Cluster Munitions. While recognizing the balance between humanitarian concern and national military objective, we strongly urge that it must complement the Convention on Cluster Munitions and not weaken it, which would undermine the humanitarian cause and the spirit of the Convention. My delegation does recognize and commend the efforts and dedication made by the Chairman of GGE, however, we feel that the Chairman's text on Protocol VI has not yet lived up to the expectation of many, particularly the affected countries. This is because Laos as the most affected country per capita on earth by cluster munitions knows too well how dreadful effect the cluster munitions cause, how much suffering they inflict on the civilian population, and how severe they retard the process of socio-economic reconstruction long after the war ended. We don't want to see others to fall into the same fate and destiny as the Lao people have experienced in the past and even today.

Despite the divergence of views on the draft protocol, my delegation is ready to work with all concerned parties with the hope of reaching a consensus on the outstanding issue throughout this review conference.

I thank you for your kind attention.