



**Remarks by Alexandra Hiniker, Lao PDR Project Manager, Cluster Munition Coalition  
Global Conference on the Convention on Cluster Munitions, 7 June 2010, Santiago, Chile**

Thank you, Chairperson.

Good afternoon, excellencies, ladies, and gentlemen. My name is Alex Hiniker, and together with Ms. Vilayphone Chouramany, we represent the CMC in Laos.

Our work in Laos is part of the CMC's global campaign to achieve three main objectives at the First Meeting of States Parties.

-The first one is to have wide participation from States as well as civil society.

-The second objective is to ensure that the meeting results in a comprehensive and coordinated action plan, a strong political declaration, and a clear program and structure for future diplomatic work on the Convention.

-The third overarching objective is to raise general awareness of the Convention, including both the suffering caused by cluster munitions and the hope to end it with a sustained commitment to the global ban on cluster munitions.

In Laos, the CMC works closely with the government, international organizations, foreign embassies, and UNDP to facilitate civil society participation in the lead-up to and implementation of the First Meeting of States Parties. In fact, this includes everyone sitting up here today.

We have identified hotels for several hundred civil society delegates to sleep in Vientiane this November, but our work doesn't stop there. We are going to make sure there's media coverage, great exhibitions and side events, catchy materials and good statements in the conference.

Since I arrived in Laos a little over a month ago, my days have been filled with meetings that spill over into evenings, weekends, and holidays, over lunches, dinners, Lao coffee, or BeerLao. People are full of ideas and eager to put in the time and energy to make them happen. We've come up with a great plan to build momentum from now until November involving everyone from monks to grandmothers.

As I've been caught up in all of these meetings, I haven't had much time to work on my Lao language skills, so I'm not quite fluent yet. But, there is one word I know that everyone seems to understand, and that's 'bombie'. 'Bombie' is the word used in Laos for cluster bombs. As you all know, Laos is the most affected country in the world.

Throughout the Oslo process, you've heard from people who experience firsthand the devastation of cluster munitions – and at the First Meeting of States Parties, you'll have an opportunity to see what they've been talking about.

But it's not all sad news. When you come to Laos this November, you'll also see the great work that's being done to end the suffering caused by these weapons. We have some fabulous ideas in store for the meeting. Everyone wants to pitch in, whether its dance performances including people with disabilities, clearance demonstrations, or massages from the blind. And of course there's the CMC evening reception, where you can cheer on players at the demonstration wheelchair basketball game.

One of the first thing people ask me when I meet them in Vientiane is, "What are you doing here?" When I say that I work on the big cluster bomb meeting in November, they all know exactly what I'm talking about. "Ah, yes, the big meeting this November," they say. And they wish me luck.

But I don't think the success of this meeting depends on luck. As you've just heard, the groundwork is being laid for a well-organized conference this November – and the CMC is actively engaged in this process.

In addition to weekly planning meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UNDP, and the National Regulatory Authority, we communicate informally on a daily basis.

In fact, one of the reasons I'm most confident that this meeting will be great is the strong spirit of collaboration in Laos. Although we all have distinct roles, we do share one common objective, which is to make the First Meeting of States Parties a success.

Everyone is excited to welcome delegates from around this world to show them the great work being undertaken to mitigate the effects of these horrible weapons. We look forward to seeing you all in Laos this November. The work starts here – but we're going to have a little fun, too.

Thank you.

## **Remarks by Mr. Bounmy Vijak, Ban Advocate, Lao PDR**

1. My name is Bounmy. My name means someone with a lot of luck. But I'm a cluster munition survivor from Lao PDR. One morning in 1996, I was digging my rice field. Suddenly, a cluster sub-munition exploded. Villagers heard the explosion and they came to see me and bring me home. When my parents saw me, they were devastated and thought that I was dead. At this moment, I became conscious and felt extreme pain and I cried out. Only then did my parents and relatives realize that I was still alive. They transported me to the hospital. It took about two hours to get there.

2. I spent 45 days in the hospital. My body was covered by bomb scrap. The doctor did not have any choice but to cut off my arm. When I returned home, I felt hopeless. I faced so many difficulties. I felt depressed and I wanted to kill myself. I was not able to work or help my family. My friends had deserted me.

3. Throughout this time, I was encouraged by my family, who also took care of me. Thanks to their support, I decided to finish my studies, and to pursue vocational training. Now I have a motivating job. But I know that many cluster munition survivors cannot find work.

4. I hope you understand how difficult living with disabilities can be. I hope you also understand that long after the war has ended, cluster bombs continue to kill innocent people and destroy homes. Whatever we do, we run into cluster munitions. We know that hundreds of survivors have been treated, but we also know that many more have died or are unknown to us. Large areas of fertile land remain contaminated. Our people cannot cultivate or make a living safely, and our country cannot develop.

5. Now I am a Ban Advocate. As you know, the Ban Advocates are a group of cluster munition survivors from around the world lobbying for the promotion of this Convention. In preparation for the First Meeting of States Parties in Vientiane, eight Lao cluster munition survivors joined the Ban Advocate team. Together we are raising awareness of the needs of survivors in our villages, provinces, and at the national and international level.

6. This Convention can change our lives. It is in your hands. We, survivors and our families, expect from you a clear and strong commitment to support not only the Lao survivors but affected communities all over the world. This will only be possible with a clear Vientiane Action Plan. We, as survivors, need to be involved. We know what the real needs of the victims are. Support has to be based on our needs. Concrete assistance is urgently needed now, and for many years to come.

7. We welcome you all to the meeting in Vientiane, and look forward to working with you. Then, the Convention will be a success and will bring real change to the lives of survivors.

1. ຂ້ອຍຊື່ ບຸນມິ. ແຕ່ ຂ້ອຍເປັນຜູ້ໜຶ່ງທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບເອກະຮ້າຍຈາກລະເບີດບົ່ມບີ. ໃນຕອນເຊົ້າມື້ໜຶ່ງປີ 1996, ຂ້ອຍພວມຂຸດດິນນາຢູ່. ທັນໃດລະເບີດກໍ່ໄດ້ແຕກຂຶ້ນ. ຊາວບ້ານໄດ້ຍື່ນສົງໄສ ຈຶ່ງໄດ້ມາເບິ່ງແລະພາຂ້ອຍໄປເຮືອນ. ເມື່ອພໍ່ແມ່ເຫັນຂ້ອຍເຂົ້າເຈົ້າຕົກໃຈຫຼາຍແລະເຂົ້າເຈົ້າຄິດວ່າຂ້ອຍຕາຍແລ້ວ. ໃນຕອນນັ້ນຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກຕົວຍ້ອນຄວາມເຈັບປວດອັນແສນສາຫາດທົ່ວສຸດແລະໄດ້ຮັບຄຳສອນຈາກສາວສາມາ. ພໍ່ແມ່ແລະພີ່ນ້ອງຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງຮູ້ວ່າຂ້ອຍຍັງມີຊີວິດຢູ່. ແລ້ວເຂົາກໍ່ພາຂ້ອຍໄປໂຮງໝໍ, ໃຊ້ເວລາ 2 ຊົ່ວໂມງ.

2. ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ປິ່ນປົວຢູ່ໂຮງໝໍເປັນເວລາ 45 ວັນ. ຕົນຕົວຂອງຂ້ອຍຖືກສະແກ້ດລະເບີດຢູ່ທົ່ວໝົດ. ທ່ານໝໍບໍ່ມີທາງເລືອກຫຍັງນອກຈາກຈະຕັດແຂນຂອງຂ້ອຍຖິ້ມ. ເມື່ອຂ້ອຍກັບຄືນມາບ້ານ, ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກໝົດຫວັງ. ຂ້ອຍຕ້ອງໄດ້ພົບກັບອຸປະສັກຫຼາຍຢ່າງ. ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ສຶກທົ່ວແທ້ແລະຢາກຂ້າຕົວຕາຍ. ຂ້ອຍບໍ່ສາມາດເຮັດວຽກຊົ່ວຄອບຄົວໄດ້. ໝູ່ທົ່ວເຄີຍສະໜິດກໍ່ໄດ້ຫ່າງເຫີນອອກໄປ.

3. ຕະຫຼອດໄລຍະເວລາດັ່ງກ່າວນີ້, ຂ້ອຍໄດ້ຮັບກຳລັງໃຈຈາກຄອບຄົວເປັນຢ່າງດີແລະເອົາໃຈໃສ່ຂ້ອຍ. ຂ້ອຍຈຶ່ງໄດ້ຕັດສິນໃຈຮັບຕົວເປັນຄົນຈົບແລະຮັບຕົວເປັນຄົນຊາຊີບ. ປະຈຸບັນນີ້ຂ້ອຍມີວຽກເຮັດທີ່ໜ້າສົນໃຈ. ແຕ່ຂ້ອຍຮູ້ວ່າຜູ້ເອກະຮ້າຍຈາກລະເບີດອື່ນຫຼາຍຄົນຍັງບໍ່ມີວຽກເຮັດ.

4.

ຂ້ອຍເຊື່ອວ່າ ຂໍ້ອະນຸຍາດ ທີ່ກ່າວມາເປັນພິການ ມີຜົນແທ້ຈິງ ແລະ ຂໍ້ອະນຸຍາດ ທີ່ກ່າວມາເປັນພິການ ທີ່ກ່າວມາ ຈະຮູ້ວ່າ ທຸກໆຄົນທີ່ສົງຄາມໄດ້ສິ້ນສຸດໄປດ້ວຍ  
 ແລ້ວລະເບີດກໍ່ຍັງສືບຕໍ່ຂ້າປະຊາຊົນຜູ້ບໍ່ລິສຸດ ແລະ ທຳລາຍບ້ານເຮືອນທີ່ຢູ່ອາໄສ. ການ  
 ດຳລົງຊີວິດພົບຄວາມຍຸ້ງຍາກ. ເຮັດຫຍັງກໍ່ພົບແຕ່ລະເບີດ. ພວກເຮົາຮູ້ວ່າ ມີຜູ້ໄດ້ຮັບເຄາະຮ້າຍໄດ້ຮັບການປິ່ນປົວ  
 ຫຼາຍຮ້ອຍຄົນ, ແຕ່ຫຼາຍກວ່ານັ້ນທີ່ໄດ້ເສຍຊີວິດ. ດິນຈະທຳການຜະລິດຍັງມີລະເບີດຕົກຄ້າງຢູ່ຫຼາຍ. ປະຊາຊົນ  
 ບໍ່ສາມາດເຮັດຫຍັງໄດ້, ຫາລືບຶງຊີບໄດ້ດ້ວຍຄວາມປອດໄພ, ແລະ ປະເທດຂອງພວກເຮົາບໍ່ສາມາດພັດທະນາໄດ້.

5. ປະຈຸບັນນີ້ ຂໍ້ອະນຸຍາດ ເປັນຜູ້ໜຶ່ງທີ່ສະໜັບສະໜູນ ຕໍ່ການລູກລະເບີດ. ດັ່ງທີ່ທ່ານຮູ້ແລ້ວວ່າ ຜູ້ສະໜັບສະໜູນ  
 ຕໍ່ການລູກລະເບີດບໍ່ມີແມ່ນຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍຈາກລະເບີດ ໃນໂລກນີ້ ຍັງຮັບຮ້ອງໃຫ້ມີການສະໜັບສະໜູນສິນ  
 ທິສັນຍາອັນນີ້. ໃນການກະກຽມກອງປະຊຸມລັດພາຄີຄັ້ງທຳອິດ ຢູ່ທີ່ວິດີໂອຈັນ, ຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍຈາກລະເບີດບໍ່ມີຄົນລາວ  
 8 ຄົນໄດ້ເຂົ້າຮ່ວມການສະໜັບສະໜູນຕໍ່ການລະເບີດບໍ່ມີ. ພວກເຮົາທັງໝົດກຳລັງຍົກລະດັບຈິດສຳນຶກກ່ຽວກັບຄວາມ  
 ຕ້ອງການຂອງຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍໃນບ້ານ, ແຂວງ, ແລະ ທົ່ວປະເທດ.

6. ສິນທິສັນຍາອັນນີ້ສາມາດບໍ່ປົນແປງຊີວິດຂອງພວກເຮົາໄດ້. ມັນຢູ່ໃນກຳມີຂອງພວກທ່ານ.

ພວກເຮົາທີ່ເປັນຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍ ແລະຄອບຄົວ ຄາດຫວັງ  
ສັນຍາທີ່ຈະແຈ້ງ ແລະເຂັ້ມແຂງຈາກທ່ານ ວ່າຈະຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອ  
ບໍ່ສະເພາະແຕ່ຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍຢູ່ລາວ ແຕ່ລວມເອົາຊຸມຊົນ  
ທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບຜົນສະທ້ອນທົ່ວໂລກ. ສິ່ງນີ້ຈະເປັນໄປໄດ້ກໍ  
ຕໍ່ເມື່ອມີແຜນວຽກວຽກຈັບທີ່ຈະແຈ້ງ. ພວກເຮົາໃນຖານະ  
ທີ່ເປັນຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍ ຕ້ອງໄດ້ມີສ່ວນຮ່ວມ. ພວກເຮົາ  
ຮູ້ວ່າຄວາມຕ້ອງການທີ່ແທ້ຈິງຂອງຜູ້ຖືກເຄາະຮ້າຍແມ່ນ  
ຫຍັງ. ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອຕ້ອງອີງໃສ່ຄວາມຕ້ອງການຕົວຈິງຂອງ  
ພວກເຮົາ. ການຊ່ວຍເຫຼືອທີ່ເປັນຮູບແບບຮ່າງແມ່ນມີຄວາມ  
ຈຳເປັນຢ່າງຮີບດ່ວນໃນປະຈຸບັນ, ແລະສຳລັບຫຼາຍປີຕໍ່ໜ້າ.

7. ພວກເຮົາຍິນດີຕ້ອນຮັບທ່ານທີ່ກອງປະຊຸມຢູ່ວຽງຈັນ,  
ແລະຄູ່ຄອບຄົວທີ່ຈະໄດ້ຮັບຄວບຄຸມຮ່ວມກັບທ່ານ. ຈາກນັ້ນ  
ສິນທິສັນຍານີ້ຈະກາຍເປັນຜົນສຳເລັດ ແລະຈະໄດ້ນຳເອົາການ  
ປ່ຽນແປງອັນແທ້ຈິງມາສູ່ຊີວິດຂອງຜູ້ໄດ້  
ຮັບເຄາະຮ້າຍທັງຫຼາຍ.