Keeping Lives Safe from UXO in Laos: Legacies of War at the United Nations

Clockwise from top: Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa; Lao PDR Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith (left) and United Nations Development Program Administrator Haoliang Xu; US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement Director Stanley Brown; Legacies of War staff and board members in front of the United Nations flag flown during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti; Side event title slide.
On Tuesday, July 17, 2018, Legacies of War participated in a side event at the United Nations about the unexploded ordnance sector in Laos. Legacies of War was the only civil society organization invited to join the panel, joining Lao Foreign Minister Saleumxay Kommasith, Lao Ambassador to the United Nations Khiane Phansoulivong, UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator Haoliang Xu, US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement Director Stanley Brown, and representatives from eight other donor countries.

The event was part of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, at which countries reported on their progress toward 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030. Laos has uniquely made "keeping lives safe from harm of UXO" its 18th SDG.

Executive Director Channapha Khamvongsa stated, "...Clearing these deadly bombs not only saves lives, but it also clears the way for greater prosperity and well-being for all the people of Laos. There is no other issue in the Lao PDR that more profoundly impacts the economic development of the country." See full remarks here.

"Together we have the opportunity to create peace where there was once war; safety where danger once lurked; and hope where there was once only despair.

Together we have the opportunity to free the next generation of Lao children from the burden of the past, clearing the way for them to play freely, walk to school in safety, and realize their dreams of a bright future."

- Channapha Khamvongsa, United Nations, July 17, 2018

On Tuesday evening, Legacies of War hosted an intimate reception for the Lao delegation and the US Department of State Office of Weapons Removal & Abatement, along with several nonprofits working on education and health in Laos.
Help Us Reach Our Goal

Legacies of War needs to raise $50,000 by the end of July to support our advocacy and community education campaigns.

Our donors are the reason we can make such a powerful impact - in Washington, DC, at the US Congress, in New
York at the United Nations, and **ultimately on the ground in Laos** by securing a safer and more peaceful future for the next generation.

We are already over 70% of the way to our goal - help us reach the finish line by the end of July.

**DONATE NOW**

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