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35th session of the UPR Working Group

Mongolia’s statement at the Review of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

21 January 2020

Mr. President,

Mongolia is pleased to note that the Lao PDR has worked vigorously to create favourable legal conditions for the full enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights enshrined in its Constitution and the international human rights instruments it has acceded to.

We further note the strides the Lao Government has made in ensuring gender equality, protecting the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities, reducing poverty and improving the country's healthcare and education system.

Mongolia commends the Lao PDR on its regular human rights trainings for officials in particular law enforcement officers from central to local levels and the general public. Such human rights education is absolutely essential. Otherwise, officials would be oblivious to the fact that their primary duty is to protect human rights, rather than serve the abstract notion of state.

We call on the Lao PDR to step up its efforts to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the Convention against Discrimination in Education.

## And lastly, we call on the Lao PDR to accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition  of the death penalty.

Thank you, Mr. President.