

## Strategy Review Concept Note

1. **Introduction:** The UXO Sector Strategy “the safe path forward” was drafted in 2002 for the period 2003 to 2013. Although relevant when it was adopted by Decree, it was developed before the NRA became operational, before INGO’s worked independently, it does not include the commercial aspects of the sector and was in force before the disability and cluster munitions conventions were signed by the Lao Government. All of this means it needs significant revision to make it relevant and appropriate for the Lao context in 2009 and beyond.
2. **Background and References:** Foundation work has been completed for the revision and subsequently there are 8 main informative documents:
  - The National Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy (2020)
  - The National Socio Economic Development Plan (current 5 year plan)
  - The Safe Path Forward (2003 – 2013)
  - Sub-sector strategic frameworks (VA, MRE, Clearance 2008)
  - The 2008 UXO Sector Evaluation and subsequent Management Response (2009)
  - The Assessment of Gender Perspectives in UXO Action in the Lao PDR.
  - The Convention for People With Disabilities (signed January 2008)
  - The Convention on Cluster Munitions’ (signed December 2008)
3. **Purpose:** This paper will describe in broad terms; actions, responsibilities and timelines for the revision.
4. **Methodology:** The process of revision will be nationally led by the NRA with input and consultation of all stakeholders.
5. **Initiation:**
  - a. 5<sup>th</sup> November 2008: Decision at the UXO Sector Working Group that revision should start in the first quarter of 2009.
  - b. 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009: NRA Board confirms and initiates the revision process

### Proposed Actions, Responsibilities and Timelines:

6. **Strategy Review Planning Committee:**
  - a. 8<sup>th</sup> May: A Planning Committee will be formed to support the NRA in its mandate to review the strategy comprising:
    - i. NRA Director as chair, MOFA, MPI, MLSW, MOD, UXO Lao, NRA STA.
  - b. The Planning Committee will develop and agree ToR for the process.
  - c. Each draft will be written jointly by ?

## **7. Workshop:**

- a. 20 – 21 May: A two day, all-stakeholder workshop to define aims and timings. The first target is a simple strategic framework to define the appropriate vision, goals, enabling activities and responsibility. This will establish direction for key elements of the strategy. The short term services of an international facilitator with appropriate Lao knowledge and proven experience with strategic planning will be provided by UNDP.

## **8. Reference-groups:<sup>1</sup>**

- a. ? May: NGO reference group workshops to discuss revised framework
- b. ? May: Commercial reference group workshops to discuss revised framework
- c. ? May: Donor reference group workshops to discuss revised framework
- d. ? May: NRA Board meets to discuss revised framework

## **9. Workshop:**

- a. 24 June a.m.: NRA Workshop for all stakeholders to agree revised framework and expand key elements into “the safe path forward II” text
- b. 24 June p.m.: Revise sector structure (currently institutional arrangements in “the safe path forward”) priorities, risks and assumptions based on the mornings work.
- c. 25 June: Develop budget and costs for revised strategy.

## **10. Finalisation**

To be decided as the review progresses.

## **11. Approval**

The final product will be presented to the Chairman of the NRA for final approval.

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<sup>1</sup> Reference groups will be set up and meet as required by members of those groups.