

## **INTERVENTION**

**By Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations**

**At the Twentieth Session of United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues**

**Agenda item 6: “Follow-up to the outcome document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”**

**(23 April, 2021)**

*Madame Chair,*

My delegation takes the floor to reiterate that the so-called Khmer Kampuchea Krom Federation or KKF (KKF), a foreign-based organization, does not represent the ethnic Khmer people in Viet Nam. In this regard, my delegation once again rejects any claim and request by KKF. We express our strong objection to their participation in this Forum as its politically motivated acts are aimed at undermining the national unity of Viet Nam and creating division among Vietnamese ethnic groups. These acts are against the tradition and the will of the Vietnamese ethnic groups, including the Khmer.

*Madame Chair,*

The promotion and protection of the rights of ethnic minorities are the top priorities of the State of Viet Nam. Our Constitution emphasizes that “All the ethnicities are equal, unified, respect and assist one another for mutual development; all acts of discrimination against and division of the ethnicities are prohibited”. We have also been implementing a variety of policies and programs on social-economic and cultural development with a special focus on ethnic minorities, including the Socio-Economic Development Program for the Most Vulnerable Districts in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas or the Project to Preserve and Promote the Culture of Ethnic Minorities, among others.

The Government’s efforts have helped reduce the poverty rate sharply in ethnic minority areas. Every province with ethnic minorities has schools, healthcare centers and free legal assistance centers. Ethnic minorities have access to media in their languages. Freedom of religion and belief, cultural identities and

heritages of ethnic minorities are promoted and protected. The Government also ensures that ethnic minority communities hold the key to their development.

To conclude, Viet Nam is firmly committed to exercising its utmost effort in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in order to leave no one behind.

I thank you, Madame Chair./.