

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 7: “Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues considered
by the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues, specifically challenges
related to pandemics and responses to them”**

(21 April, 2021)

Madame Chair,

We appreciate the work of the Forum as a platform to share and learn experiences in a constructive manner. Having said that, my Delegation is obliged to response to the statement made earlier by the so-called Khmer Kampuchea Krom Federation or KKF (KKF), a foreign based organization that does not in any way represent the ethnic Khmer people in Viet Nam. In this regard, my Delegation rejects any claim and request made 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, creating division among Vietnamese ethnic groups. These acts are against the tradition and will of the Vietnamese ethnic groups, including the Khmer.

My Delegation would like to take this opportunity to inform that Viet Nam is a country of 54 ethnic groups living together for generations in one whole territory in unity and mutual assistance in the cause of national construction and defense. The promotion and protection of the rights of ethnic minorities are among the top priorities of the State of Viet Nam. Over the past decades, Viet Nam has made tremendous efforts and recorded significant achievements in its economic and social development which are widely recognized, in particular in terms of the achievement and implementation of MDGs and SDGs. Viet Nam is also a party of most of the key human rights treaties, and has been implementing these treaties in good faith.

To conclude, we reaffirm our support for the spirit of constructive dialogue and sincere cooperation expressed in the deliberations of most of the Forum participants.

I thank you./.