

**4<sup>th</sup> United Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

-----

**Remarks by H.E. Mr. Doan Xuan Hung  
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the S. R of Viet Nam**

**Istanbul, May 12, 2011**

*Check against delivery*

**Remarks by H.E. Doan Xuan Hung**  
**Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the S. R of Viet Nam**  
**at the 4<sup>th</sup> UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries**

-----

*Mr. Chairman,*  
*Distinguished Head of State and Government,*  
*Ladies and gentlemen,*

At the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I wish to express how highly we value the UN's initiative to organizing this 4<sup>th</sup> Conference on the Least Developed Countries and to thank Turkey for hosting this important event. I believe this year's conference is of special significance not only because it takes place at the most difficult and challenging time that the world economy in general and those of LDCs in particular have witnessed since the past several decades but more importantly, it is now time to review the last Conference' results and discuss measures and relevant forms of cooperation for the development of the LDCs.

*Distinguished participants,*

After 25 years of openness and international integration, Viet Nam has obtained significant achievements. Its economic performance has been impressive with the sustained GDP growth of 7-8% per annum, export growth of 15-20%. At present, Viet Nam's foreign trade accounts for 160% of GDP. In 2009, despite difficulties caused by the global economic crisis, Viet Nam still maintained an economic growth rate of 5.3%. In 2010, with the global economic recovery, Viet Nam's economic growth was encouraging with 6.78%.

To date, Viet Nam has established economic and trade ties with more than 200 countries and territories. By 2010, Viet Nam has attracted US\$180 billion FDI from investors of 89 countries. Viet Nam's medium – and long-term development outlook has been projected by the international community as positive, reflected in the ODA commitments of US\$8 billions. In addition, Viet Nam's businesses have been growing fast. Many major corporations were established and went global with billions of dollars investing in 50 countries with 500 projects.

Viet Nam's international credibility and position has improved significantly together with its economic development. The country is now an active member of ASEAN, ASEM, WTO and others institutions. Viet Nam performed well in UN Security Council as a non-permanent member for 2008-2009 and fulfilled the mandate of the 2010 ASEAN Chair although it is the first time the country held such position.

Viet Nam has recorded great achievements in poverty reduction and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). As recognized by the UN, Viet Nam has achieved and surpassed 5 out of 8 MDGs ahead of schedule. As such, the achievement of all MDGs by 2015 is foreseeable. Viet Nam is one of the most successful countries in poverty reduction with the rate dropped from 58% in 1993 to 10% in 2010.

*Distinguished delegates,*

Integration and development is a process with both opportunities and challenges. To seize opportunities and overcome challenges, especially those of global nature, for a better future for all nations, I would like to share some experiences and thinking of Viet Nam.

*Firstly*, in order to achieve development, all nations need support and assistance of international friends, but it is the endeavour of each economy that makes the difference.

Development is a need and aspiration of all nations. In that process, resources from assistance and advice from the outside are of great significance. However, it is even more important that each nation and economy build on its endogenous resources, take strong and appropriate actions to remedy its inherent weaknesses, enhance the efficacy of allocation and utilization of assistance. The higher the efficacy of aid utilization is, the more the spin-off effects it has on development and the less aid reliance LDCs become.

In the past years, the Vietnamese Government has placed high priority on infrastructure development, improvement of the legal framework, step up in administrative reform and especially the training of human resources. We view these as the key measures to enhance the efficacy of allocation and utilization of ODA and FDI. These efforts have enabled Viet Nam to gradually raise its competitiveness and create an increasingly favourable environment for international investment.

*Secondly*, it is in all economies' interests to have a more liberal, favourable and balanced international trading system.

As a new member of the WTO, Viet Nam believes that a multilateral trading system is essential to trade growth and sustainable development of all nations, including developing countries, especially the LDCs. In the current context of the strong rise of regionalism, which eats into preferential treatment, Viet Nam is of the view that the WTO in its capacity as the sole negotiation forum for global trade needs to double its efforts to complete the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) and delivers on the leaders' commitments made the UN Millennium Summit in 2005, which was

“Commitment to enhanced and predictable market access for the exports of developing countries”.

The process of developing the global trading system requires active participation and close cooperation of all nations, taking into account the development gap. In this line, Viet Nam has been actively participating in the Doha Round. We also call on countries, especially those with higher development level, to take higher responsibilities for the common development of the international community. I also strongly urge our Conference to come up with an appeal to all major trading players, especially the G11 members in the WTO, calling on them to adopt maximum flexibility in negotiations for a balanced result in this year.

*Thirdly*, it is necessary to promote development cooperation in sub-regions and underdeveloped regions in various forms.

The solution to maintain stability and sustainable development is to quickly narrow down the development gap among countries, regions and sub-regions. In recent past, a number of such a cooperation mechanism have been established, such as ASEAN, Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), ACMECS, CLMV, Viet Nam – Laos – Cambodia development triangle, East – West Economic Corridor (EWEC). Viet Nam has taken part in and successfully implemented several forms of multi-sector bilateral cooperation and tripartite cooperation with a number of countries.

Natural disasters, climate change and diseases have been evolving with complexity, posing considerable threats to each country’s stability and development. Many Asian and African countries will be among the first victims of climate change. Pandemics, such as malaria, HIV/AIDS, type A influenza H1N1 are happening in many countries, spreading fast and developing in a complex manner. Obviously, it is time, more than ever, for us to strengthen our cooperation and coordinated resources in diverse forms. Viet Nam, for its part, will do whatever it can to work with other countries in the interest of common development.

*Distinguished delegates,*

The support of major economies to the development process of LDCs not only helps the latter close the development gap, but also promotes production in donor countries. What matters more is the establishment of socio – economic infrastructure for global trade and investment growth, given these countries’ active involvement in the process of globalization. The sustainable development of LDCs represents substantial contributions to the common development of the international community.

With this note, I wish to conclude here. May I wish the Conference a great success.