Statement by Mr. Pham Vinh Quang
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the United Nations Secretary-General’s Symposium
on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

New York September 19th, 2011

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam welcomes the United Nations Secretary General’s Symposium on International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. We believe this is yet another event to help bring the international community together in the concerted fight against terrorism.

Mr. Chairman,

International terrorism threatens security and stability of States and the international community, and in many cases has brought about losses of life of innocent people. The world continues have to suffer from heinous terrorist acts, conducted in different forms and by sophisticated tactics. Being a peace-loving nation and as a country to that has been subject to terrorist acts, Viet Nam shares the international community’s serious concerns on the rise of this scourge and condemns terrorism in all of its forms and for all its motives. Perpetrators of terrorism must be punished. We all also agree that no State can deal the threat of terrorism without cooperation from other States and international organizations. In recent years, the world has made real progress in international cooperation in fighting terrorism. But much more needs to be done and States, while have the primary responsibility in combating terrorism and bringing terrorists to justice, should advance formal and informal international cooperation at a global or regional level. At the same time, Viet Nam wishes to emphasize that the fight against terrorism must be carried out in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, there should be consistency and non-selecting in the fight against terrorism. It is imperative to deal with all issues that might be related to solve the root grounds for international terrorism, including the political, economic and social inequality and injustice over the world.

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam adopts an uncompromising attitude toward terrorist activities through its consistent policy on counter-terrorism. Crimes of terrorism have been defined in the Penal Code of Viet Nam. In the near future, a Law on Counter-terrorism will be enacted to meet the requirements of the fight against terrorism in Viet Nam and its international cooperation.
Viet Nam has made hard efforts to promote counter-terrorism cooperation with other countries and international organizations, especially the United Nations, on the basis of compliance with the UN Charter and fundamental principles of international law. Viet Nam now is a party to eight international instruments on counter-terrorism. We are actively supporting the UN-led programs to promote anti-terrorism coordination, such as we have submitted eight reports on the implementation of UN Security Council’s Resolutions 1373 and 1624. Furthermore, in April 2010, Viet Nam showed its support by participating in the Global Initiative on Combating Nuclear Terrorist Acts. The competent authorities of Viet Nam are actively considering the accession to two other international conventions, namely the International Convention against Taking of Hostages and International Convention on Suppression of Terrorist Bombing. Viet Nam looks to other international partners for their cooperation in suppressing individuals and groups that undertake terrorist acts against the State and people of Viet Nam.

On regional level, Viet Nam joined efforts with other ASEAN countries in concluding the ASEAN Convention on Counter-Terrorism which it ratified in 2010. Vietnamese Government agencies are developing programs to implement the provisions of the Convention in Viet Nam. In June 2010, Viet Nam co-organized the 8th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Conference on Counter-Terrorism. Viet Nam actively participates in anti-terrorism cooperation projects initiated within the framework of ASEAN, APEC, ASEM, ASEAN-Japan Dialogue, etc...

Mr. Chairman,

We take this opportunity to renew our commitment to promoting international cooperation in the fight against terrorism. We support the United Nations’ leading role in this aspect and call for full implementation of the Counter-Terrorism Action Plan adopted by the UNGA in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We encourage Member States to finalize and adopt the Draft Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and look forward to working more closely with the Counter-Terrorism Inter-agency Taskforce to improve the coordination within the United Nations for the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular in Southeast Asia as well in Viet Nam. Viet Nam welcomes and is ready to cooperate with the UN specialized agencies in implementing projects of technical assistance, capacity building and strengthening the national legal framework against terrorism.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.