

SPEECH
BY H.E. MR. NGUYEN MINH TRIET
PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
AT THE UN SUMMIT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

(New York, 22 September 2009)

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and in my own name, I wish to extend to you my best regards.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change today is no longer a warning but rather, becomes a great impact to all nations, regions and the world over. The latest researches show that climate change will damage all economic, social and environmental aspects of life and present a tangible threat to the cause of poverty reduction, the materialisation of the UN Millennium Development Goals and sustainable development of each and every country. Many species in the world fauna and flora are on the verge of extinction. Millions of people in the world, especially the poor in the least developed countries, will be heavily impacted by climate change which is taking place in a much more serious and wider degree.

It is for that reason that the combat against climate change to prevent its negative impacts becomes a common struggle requiring everyone and every nation to join hands. That is our conscience and responsibility towards ourselves and our own community, serving the goals of social development and prosperity.

I would applaud the United Nations and the Secretary General in particular for their great concern over climate change. The United Nations has held quite a few forums to help us discuss and find long-term and effective measures to counter climate change. One of such forums is today's UN Summit on Climate Change in New York. I hope that with our determination and responsibility to the current and our future generations, we, as the world leaders, would have a common voice in spelling out the right strategies and effective measures for the international community to best respond to climate change.

As a country that would be worst affected by climate change due to its long coastline that harbours a series of economic zones and large population whose livelihood depends to a large extent on agricultural production, aquaculture and utilisation of natural resources, we are fully aware that the grave challenges that climate change is and will pose to our people and country.

To help ourselves and others, Viet Nam is determined to join the international community to respond to climate change. The Government and people of Viet Nam have been implementing various active adaptation measures to respond to climate change including the deployment of the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change, the Energy Saving Programme aimed at improving energy efficiency, the promotion of renewable energies, or the GHG reduction projects in order to develop a green and sustainable economy.

To that end, however, the people of Viet Nam really need assistance, support, cooperation and experience from the international community, especially the developed nations, to add to their own efforts. Viet Nam, as a signatory to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, will cooperate actively with the international community in the combat against the impacts of climate change for sustainable development and prosperity of all nations.

We can be confident that with our unity, the spirit of cooperation for common interests and the firm determination of all members of the international community, we will certainly succeed in the response to climate change.

Thank you very much for your attention.