



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT  
BY H.E MR NGUYEN DY NIEN,  
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OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM  
  
TO THE 60<sup>th</sup> SESSION OF  
THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

21 SEPTEMBER 2005

*Please check against delivery*

*Mr. President,*

At the outset, I would like, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, to sincerely congratulate you upon your election as President of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am convinced that under your able stewardship, this Session will be crowned with success. Let me express our high appreciation of the contributions by your predecessor, His Excellency Mr. Jean Ping, to the work of the 59<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

I also take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for the great efforts he has made over the past year to reform and strengthen our Organization.

*Mr. President,*

Taking place in the context of the many activities commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations, especially the High-level Plenary Session of the General Assembly that has just concluded, our present Session constitutes an event of crucial significance that offers a great deal of hope and confidence. We believe that Member States will be able to work out effective ways to implement the commitments contained in the Outcome Document just adopted by our leaders, especially those concerning the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. We are confident that amid both challenges and opportunities, with necessary wisdom and determination, we will find a right path towards a brighter future for humanity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*Mr. President,*

In the celebrative atmosphere of today, we cannot and should not forget stark realities as we continue to see the spread of war, conflict, the resurgence of terrorism, natural disasters, poverty, and the outbreak of epidemics and transnational crimes, which are threatening the peace, security, independence and prosperity of nations. The world people were shocked by the recent terrorist attacks in London, Sharm el-Sheik and elsewhere. Viet Nam, therefore, joins with others in the fight against terrorism of all kinds. It is our view that to root out terrorism, the international community must seriously and adequately address the phenomena of poverty, injustice and inequality.

Viet Nam welcomes the recent positive developments in the Middle East peace process. It is our consistent policy to support the just cause of the Palestinian people in their struggle for their inalienable rights. On that note, we welcome Israel's withdrawal from resettlement areas in the Gaza Strip. Proceeding from its principled position that international disputes should be settled by peaceful means, Viet Nam supports peaceful solutions to the nuclear issue in Iran and the Korean Peninsula. Considering embargo and blockade unacceptable in the modern world, we call for an early lifting of the unilateral embargo against Cuba. It is Viet Nam's view that the United Nations should be more active in this connection. The Tsunami that affected Asian countries last year and the recent Katrina hurricane that hit the United States coastal cities altogether resulting in the loss of a great number of lives and the damage worth hundreds of billions of US dollars

are reminders of the need of effective early warning systems, preparedness and international solidarity in confronting the force of nature.

*Mr. President,*

As we are preparing to translate the commitments contained in the Outcome Document into action to reform the United Nations, I would like to associate myself with the views expressed by the Secretary General in his report "In Larger Freedom" and reaffirmed in the Document on the interactive links between peace, security, development and human rights. Viet Nam's experience shows that an environment of peace, political and social stability is indispensable for development and that economic growth, the improvement of the people's life will help strengthen peace and stability. In this regard, we believe the United Nations should have a greater role to play in making these links more interactive.

Viet Nam shares the common view that the reform of the United Nations should first and foremost aim at enhancing the Organization's efficiency and democracy on the basis of strengthening the fundamental principles enshrined in the UN Charter. It is essential to reinforce the central role and power of the General Assembly, which has the equal participation of all UN members. The reform of the Security Council should be accorded adequate attention so that the Council can be turned into a body able to effectively perform its functions in maintaining international peace and security. The working methods of the Council should be improved to ensure democracy and transparency. The Council needs to be enlarged in both categories of its membership to ensure that it truly represents all UN members as stipulated in the Charter. We believe that developing states should be more adequately represented at this important organ, and reiterate the support we have expressed since 1999 for India, Japan and Germany to become permanent members of the enlarged Council.

Furthermore, Viet Nam believes that the reform of the United Nations must be conducted in a comprehensive manner and in a way that ensures a balance between the two equally important and mutually complimentary goals of maintaining peace and security and promoting development. An enabling environment to development must be built on the basis of equitable international economic relations, mutual benefit, shared responsibility and fulfillment of agreed commitments. In that spirit, Viet Nam supports the proposals on development set out in the Report of the Secretary-General and the commitments contained in the Outcome Document, especially the recommitment of the international community to achieve the MDGs on schedule. Viet Nam welcomes those developed countries' commitments to allocate 0.7% of GNP to Official Development Assistance (ODA) without any conditions. For developing nations to fulfill the MDGs, it is essential that they are enabled to participate more actively in the global economy. Viet Nam, therefore, calls on the UN to adopt and implement measures to facilitate developing countries' entry to the WTO. Besides, non-tariff and protective measures under such cloak as Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS) to block exports from developing countries should be dismantled.

*Mr. President,*

Guarantee and promotion of human rights always remain a high priority in the work of the UN. Viet Nam supports the UN's greater role in this regard. We will continue to spare no effort in contributing to the common cause of human rights protection. Realizing the need to reform the UN machinery for human rights protection, we believe the reform must be conducted in a manner free from acts of politicization. More in-depth discussions are needed with regard to the issue of establishing a Human Rights Council and to the concept of "responsibility to protect", so as to ensure broad support for the measures to be implemented.

*Mr. President,*

The Vietnamese people have just celebrated the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of their democratic State. Having gone through a process of comprehensive renewal, Viet Nam today is a country with high and sustained economic growth, social equity and significant progress in implementing the MDGs. Viet Nam today is a safe and stable country that has further integrated into the global economy and pursued a foreign policy of independence, sovereignty and diversification and multilateralisation of its external relations, a country which is willing to be a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the world community. We have been actively participating in various regional, inter-regional and global cooperation arrangements. Viet Nam has been making great efforts to conclude negotiations for an early accession to the WTO. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to those countries which have extended support to Viet Nam in this connection. We are actively engaging in ASEAN, APEC, ASEAN and East Asia cooperation activities. To make greater contribution to the work of the UN, Viet Nam has decided to run for a non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for the term 2008-2009. We are now making active preparations to participate in the UN peace-keeping operations when the conditions are ripe.

To conclude, Mr. President, let me assure you, that Viet Nam will continue to work closely with other countries in the international community to strive for the common goals, among them a stronger United Nations.

I thank you.