

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM



**STATEMENT
OF VIETNAMESE DELEGATION
AT THE 57TH SESSION
OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN**

New York, March 2013

Madam Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my honor, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, to extend my warmest greetings to Mr. / Madam Chairperson and distinguished participants at the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW). Viet Nam highly appreciates the priority theme of the Session “Elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls”. This is indeed a good opportunity for UN member states to look back and review our relevant achievements, and discuss the most effective measures to address violence against women and girls, thus contributing to the successful implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Fiji on behalf of G77 and China, and the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of ASEAN countries.

Madam Chairperson,

In Viet Nam, women and girls are always among the top priorities of the State and Government. Women make up 50.5% of the total population and have been playing a significant role in the construction and development of the country throughout history, and their status is increasingly promoted. Girls under 15 years of age make up 22.6%. They are generally cared for and protected, and have access to education, health care as well as development opportunities.

The State of Viet Nam has paid great attention to the elimination and prevention of violence against women and girls. Viet Nam ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in 1981, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990 and is determined to realize the objectives of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The elimination and prevention of violence against women are stipulated in many legal documents such as the Civil Code, the Penal Code and the Law on Marriage and Family. Most recently, the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence approved in 2007 is regarded as a sound tool in

addressing domestic violence in particular and violence against women and girls in general.

The State and Government of Viet Nam have also undertaken numerous measures to address violence against women and girls and to support victims. The recent National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period 2011 – 2020 sets an objective of “ensuring gender equality in family life, and step by step eliminating gender based violence”. One of its projects is to develop models of prevention and mitigation of consequences of gender based violence. Communication and awareness raising on gender equality and gender based violence are also being promoted. Models of communication and provision of health care, counseling, education, vocational training and life skills for women to cope with violence such as “Shelters”, “Clubs for Happy Families”, and “Clubs for Gender Equality, Marriage and Family” are now operating effectively, and receive significant support from international partners and non-government organizations.

At the same time, the National Programme on Child Protection for the period 2011-2015 is now being carried out. A hot line has been set up to help children who are subjected to violence. A range of services to protect children have been established.

Madam Chairperson,

With great determination and a systematic approach, Viet Nam has gained encouraging achievements. However, difficulties and challenges still lie ahead for us. Like in many other parts of the world, women and girls still belong to vulnerable groups who are unluckily subjected to violence, mostly in the form of domestic violence in rural areas. Gender gap remains big since gender inequality still exists. Women, especially those living in remote areas, still suffer from discrimination. Many men and women themselves accept patriarchy, and thus confuse gender equality with gender stereotypes. Despite being provided with information, education and communication, certain numbers of women have yet been fully aware of their rights and legitimate interests. In addition, economic difficulty and problems such as alcohol addiction or gambling also contribute to violence against women and girls.

Madam Chairperson,

To overcome such the challenges, the Vietnamese Government and authorities are stepping up measures to raising awareness on law and policies on gender equality and full implementation of CEDAW; enforcing the Law on Gender Equality by realizing successfully the objectives of the National Strategy and Program on Gender Equality; monitoring the implementation of laws on gender equality and women's advancement; adopting more regulations specifying civil, administrative and criminal liability for discriminating against women; and encouraging fine customs and practices while removing backward ones. We understand that this is our great and challenging responsibility.

At this CSW Session, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to reiterate our determination and efforts to cooperate with other State Members to discuss and give recommendations with the aim of more effectively addressing violence against women and girls.

I wish you good health and the Session great success.

I thank you.