STATEMENT

of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact
of Nuclear Weapons

Hofburg Palace, Vienna, Austria
09 December 2014

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Austria for hosting this Conference with the objective to reinvigorate the collective efforts to abolish nuclear weapons.

My delegation associates itself with the ASEAN and NAM statements. In our national capacity, Viet Nam would like to add the following:

At the outset, my delegation would like to reiterate Viet Nam's commitment to general and complete disarmament, including total elimination of nuclear weapons. Along this line, Viet Nam has been party to and implemented faithfully its obligations under various international legal instruments, such as the NPT, CTBT and CWC. Viet Nam welcomes international efforts to achieve this ultimate goal. Together with other ASEAN Member States, Viet Nam has continuously strived to a South East Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ) in accordance with the Bangkok Treaty.

Viet Nam's consistent policy is to promote, in a balanced and comprehensive manner, the international nuclear regime and its pillars, namely nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear technology. In our pursuit of nuclear energy, Viet Nam emphasizes both the benefits and the essential requirements of safety and security and supports international efforts in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

In the last few days, my delegation has followed closely different panels discussing the impact of nuclear weapons explosions on human health, environment, agriculture...and the scenarios regarding the nuclear weapons use. These discussions further illuminate the risk of annihilation that nuclear weapons may inflict on mankind as a whole.
In this regard, I wish to underline the need to substantiate commitments to abolish nuclear weapons and further the current discussions and initiatives, including those elaborated in the UN General Assembly on “Follow-up to the 2013 High Level Meeting of the GA on nuclear disarmament”, as well as the commencement of negotiation of a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons at the Conference of Disarmament.

To conclude, Mr. Chairman, my delegation wishes to express our gratitude and appreciation to all international partners who have made valuable contributions to this noble humanitarian endeavor.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman./.