



**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZ
SUITE 435
NEW YORK, NY 10017**

Check against delivery

**Statement by Mr NGUYEN DUY CHIEN
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Socialist
Republic of Vietnam
at the General Debate of the First Committee
of the 58th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(13 October 2003)**

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to joint other speakers in congratulating you on your election as the Chairman of the First Committee. I am confident that, with your wide expertise and diplomatic skills, you will guide the discussion of the First Committee to a positive outcome. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the appointment of the new Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs - Mr. Nobuyasu Abe and thank him for his presentation on various issues related to disarmament and international security.

Mr. Chairman,

Our delegation associates itself with the statement which will be made latter by the Representative of Myanmar on behalf of the ASEAN member states. We therefore would like to limit only to the following points

Being a longstanding advocate for general and complete disarmament, we believe that there exists a solid foundation for further common actions on the way to achieve this noble objective. This is a system of international commitments embodied in various multilateral instruments and institutions. We therefore strongly support all efforts to consolidate these commitments, strengthen and further develop them as required in agreed conclusions of relevant conferences and

meetings as well as the relevant resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly.

However, we regret to note that recent work in the field of disarmament and security has not yet brought about desirable results. It found reflection in the lack of progress in the discussion of the Disarmament Commission on two important issues, namely ways and means to promote nuclear disarmament and confident building. There has been no consensus on the objectives and agenda including the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee for convening of the Fourth Special Session on Disarmament. 2003 Session of the UNDC continued to fail in finding common agreement on the program of work. Truly, certain progress has been made, but overall picture in the disarmament affairs over the last year is quite far from satisfactory.

Firmly convincing that weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons are posing the most serious threat to the world today, we consistently favor their total elimination, and reaffirm our strong commitment to closely cooperate with the international community to get rid of such dangerous weapons. In this context, we once again wish to stress the importance of the conclusion made by the International Court of Justice in its *Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons* issued on 8 July 1996 that there exist an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects under strict and effective international control.

We also value the role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the cornerstone of global non-proliferation regime that provides collective security. Undoubtedly, all States Parties must fully comply with the Treaty obligations and implement 13 steps contained in the Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference. It is our sincere hope that 2005 Review Conference will make substance progress.

Since nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament substantively interrelated and mutual reinforcing, there is an urgent need for a systematic and progressive process of nuclear disarmament. Nuclear weapon states are therefore required to implement their undertaking adopted at the 2000 Treaty Review Conference to

accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenal leading to nuclear disarmament. In this connection, we welcome the ratification of the Treaty on Strategic Offensive Reduction (Moscow Treaty) by the United States and Russian Federation last June.

We wish to reaffirm our strong support for the convening of Four Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly devoted to Disarmament in order to review the implementation of SSOD I with the full participation of the United Nations Member States. We urge the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and Disarmament Commission to renew efforts to overcome the deadlock and resume their substantive work as soon as possible. We welcome and support all efforts to establish nuclear-weapon-free-zones (NWFZS) in various regions of the world as the establishment of NWFZS is practical means towards a world of peace.

In conclusion, Mr. Chairman, we support the proposals expressed by many speakers on revitalizing the current work of the First Committee. We hope that through the constructive work, the First Committee will be able to make progress in promoting common understanding and in agreeing on concrete and practical measures that strengthen the regime of disarmament, arm control and non-proliferation.

Thank you for your attention.