



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

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
SUITE 435
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Statement

by Mr. Hoang Chi Trung

Minister and Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to the United Nations
at the First Committee of the 61st Session
of the United Nations General Assembly

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Madame Chairperson,

Let me begin by congratulating you and other members of the Bureau on your elections to the important posts of the bureau of the First Committee of the 61st Session of the United Nations General Assembly. I am sure that under your guidance, the committee will arrive at a satisfactory outcome.

First and foremost, my delegation fully associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished Representative of the Republic of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement on Monday.

Madame Chairperson,

Convinced that complete and total disarmament constitutes a solid guaranty for world peace and security, Vietnam has consistently supported all initiatives and efforts aimed at consolidating commitments towards that goal. We, however, regret that the Conference on Disarmament, the 2005 Review Conference of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation Treaty of Nuclear Weapons and the United Nations Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects that was held in New York from June 26th to July 7th this year did not bring about any satisfactory results. My delegation believe that the current state of disarmament affairs can only be rectified if genuine political will prevails and cooperative efforts to overcome existing difficulties and obstacles are renewed and redoubled.

Madame Chairperson,

Weapons of mass destruction which includes nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, are posing the most serious threat to the humankind today. We wish to reaffirm our strong commitment to cooperate with the international community to get rid of such dangerous weapons. We also value the role of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons as the cornerstone of global non-proliferation regime. Undoubtedly, all States Parties must comply fully with the Treaty's obligations. We are also convinced that pending the total elimination of nuclear weapons, efforts for the conclusion of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapons-states should be pursued as a matter of high priority.

In the meantime, Vietnam fully recognizes the important role played by the IAEA and its safeguards in consolidating and enhancing the verification system for the regime of non-proliferation. Assistance to non-nuclear-weapons states in peaceful uses of nuclear energy constitutes an important obligation under the NPT. Furthermore we wish to stress that the NPT Treaty has confirmed the right of countries to access, without discrimination, to the research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

One of the most significant achievements we have recorded relating to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation is the adoption of the CTBT in 1996. The main objectives and purposes of the Treaty promote both nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. The treaty is an important measure to preserve world peace and international security. We are happy to note that there is a steady increase in the number of signatory and ratifying states to the Treaty. We support the commitments and concerted efforts of the international community towards achieving a universal adherence to the Treaty at an early date. Vietnam, Madame Chairperson, attaches great importance to the CTBT and was one of the leading countries to sign CTBT in 1996. In March this year, the instrument of ratification of Vietnam was deposited. This demonstrates Vietnam's consistent policy of advancing disarmament, especially nuclear disarmament, and contributing to international peace and security. My delegation wishes to reiterate that Vietnam continues to support all efforts and initiatives toward a world free from all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons in particular. In line with this principle, Vietnam will continue to work hard with all other countries to enable the CTBT to achieve universal adherence and thus making further contributions to strengthening world peace and security.

We firmly believe that the nuclear weapons free zones not only make significant contribution toward achieving the regional and international security, but also strengthen the NPT regime and the process of total nuclear disarmament. In this spirit, my delegation wishes to reiterate its strong support to the Nuclear Weapons Free Zones established by the Treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Plindaba, Mongolia's nuclear-weapons-free-status as well as efforts to implement the Resolution adopted by the 1995

Review Conference, so that the Middle East will become a zone free of nuclear weapons. We also welcome the signing of the treaty to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in Central Asia in Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, on 8 September 2006 and urge all States, particularly the nuclear-weapon States, to fully cooperate with the five Central Asian States to facilitate the establishment of the Central Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. We are glad that over 110 countries have now signed onto nuclear-weapon-free zone treaties. We also consider that NWFZs have significant role towards achieving the regional and global peace and security.

In this spirit, in 1995, Vietnam has acceded and committed itself to the SEANWFZ. At the regional level, Vietnam is working closely with other ASEAN member states to ensure the Southeast Asia region free from nuclear weapons. With the South East Asia Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty's entry into force as of March 1997, it is our view that the participation of all nuclear weapons states through their acceding to the Protocol of this Treaty would be essential in further strengthening the confidence-building measures between the nuclear weapon states and the Southeast Asian countries. By doing so, the nuclear weapon states could further demonstrate their commitments to the NPT process, enhancing negative security assurances to the countries in South East Asia. Vietnam once again welcomes the announcement made by China of its readiness to accede to the Protocol annexed to the Treaty and calls upon other nuclear weapons states to do likewise.

Madame Chairperson,

In order to review and assess the implementation of the First United Nations Special Session Devoted to Disarmament which took place almost three decades ago, the convening of the Fourth United Nations Special Session Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD IV) is overdue. We are disappointed by the lack of consensus in the open-ended working group set up by the General Assembly to consider the objectives and agenda, including the possibility of establishing a preparatory committee for SSOD IV. We join many other delegations in calling upon the General Assembly to reconvene the working group to find practical ways to hold the Special Session as soon as possible.

Finally, we hope that through the constructive work, the First Committee at this session will manage to formulate the concrete and practical measures to strengthen the regime of disarmament, arm control and non-proliferation and thus making greater contributions to the consolidation of world peace and security.

Thank you, Madame Chairperson./.