



PHẢI ĐOÀN THƯỜNG TRỰC
CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM
TẠI LIÊN HỢP QUỐC

PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 U.N. Plaza, 4th Floor, Suite 435
New York, N.Y. 10017
(212) 644-0594 • (212) 644-0831
(212) 644-2535 • (212) 644-1564
Fax: (212) 644-5732

(Check against delivery)

STATEMENT
by Mr. Nguyen Duy Chien
Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations
at the 2006 Session of the UN Disarmament Commission
(New York, 10 April 2006)

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, I would like, on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, to congratulate you and the other members of the Bureau on your election to the Chairmanship of the 2006 Session of the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). I am confident that your diplomatic experience and skills will guide the Session towards a successful outcome.

Mr. Chairman,

Delegation of Viet Nam is fully associated itself with the Statement made by the Head of Indonesia's Delegation on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement. Our intervention therefore is limited to the following points.

1. Like many other delegations, the Delegation of Viet Nam regrets that in the last two sessions the UNCD has failed to achieve intended results. Despite that failure, we continue to trust in the importance of the UNDC as the specialized, deliberative body within the United Nations multilateral disarmament machinery that allows for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, leading to the submission of concrete recommendations on those issues. Our Delegation therefore supports and is ready to join every efforts and initiatives to make the 2006 Session of the UNDC a successful one.

2. Nuclear weapons today continue to pose the most serious threat to international peace and security. Viet Nam has consistently called for total elimination of the nuclear arsenal and is committed to closely cooperating with the international community to get rid of such dangerous weapons. In this context, our Delegation once again wishes to stress that International Court of Justice in its Advisory Opinion on the Legality of Threat of Use of Nuclear Weapons of 8 July 1996 has clearly stated that there exists 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.

It is universally recognized that the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) constitutes the essential foundation for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament. We reaffirm the need for nuclear weapon States to fully comply with all their obligations and commitments under Article VI, including the 13 practical steps, to which they have agreed to in the 2000 NPT Review Conference with a view to accomplishing the total elimination of nuclear weapons. In the context of the very slow progress towards nuclear disarmament in recent years, it has become more pertinent and justified that the nuclear weapon States strictly undertake their responsibilities to stop the improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery system, and as an interim measures, to de-alert and de-active them and gradually reduce them.

We are 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 priority.

At the same time, our Delegation wishes to emphasize the legitimate right of all states parties to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, in conformity to Article IV of the Treaty and IAEA safeguards system is a fundamental pillar to consolidate and enhance the compliance and verification system for non-proliferation regime.

3. Concerning the creation of nuclear-weapons-free-zones, 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 the total nuclear

disarmament. We have witnessed sound and encouraging results in this area, namely over 100 States have committed to Treaties of Tlateloco, Rarotonga, Bangkok and Palindaba, Mongolia has undertaken nuclear-weapons-free status and recent commitments made by the five Central Asian States to established a nuclear-weapons-free-zone in Central Asia. Today the international community must continue efforts to implement the Resolution adopted by the 1995 NPT Review Conference on making the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons.

In our view, one of the most important factors determining the effectiveness of the treaties establishing such nuclear-weapons-free-zones is the participation by the nuclear weapons States in protocols annexed to the relevant Treaties. In our region the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear-Weapons-Free-Zone symbolizes the determination and efforts of the countries of Southeast Asia to advance the cause of peace and stability in the region and nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament as a whole.

4. One of the significant achievements the international community has recorded in the process of nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament is the conclusion of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) in 1996. Attaching great importance to the CTBT, Viet Nam signed it on 24th September 1996. On 23rd February 2006, President of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam signed the decision to ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban-Treaty. The instrument of ratification of the Treaty by Viet Nam has recently deposited with the United Nations Secretary-General. We hope that those nations that have not signed or ratified the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty will sign and ratify it at an early date so that the Treaty can take effect.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, we support the NAM position that the efforts to improve the methods of work of the UNDC should be placed in an integral part of the whole process of the UN Reform, particularly the revitalisation of the General Assembly and they should be carried out in a balanced and comprehensive manner in the framework of the efforts to review the multilateral disarmament machinery in the context of SSOD-IV.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.