



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT

by Mr. Pham Vinh Quang, Deputy Permanent Representative
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations
at the General Debate of the First Committee
of the Sixty-Fifth Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 06 October, 2010)

Mr. Chairman,

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee at the Sixty-fifth General Assembly Session. Our warm felicitation goes to other members of the Bureau on their election. My delegation fully associates itself with the statements made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, and by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Mr. Chairman,

We start the 2010 Session with a mixture of optimism and setbacks in the field of disarmament. Besides positive signs such as the signing in April between the United States and Russian Federation of the Treaty on measures for the further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms (NEW START), and the successful conclusion of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in May, we are still facing a slow progress in the field of nuclear disarmament, the continued deadlock of the Conference on Disarmament (CD) and the stalemate in the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC). Since disarmament is the global issue that cannot be solved unilaterally or bilaterally, only global action can help to resolve it radically. Viet Nam strongly supports multilateralism and the central role of the UN in this endeavor and welcomes the result of the High Level Meeting on “Revitalizing the work of the Conference on Disarmament and taking forward multilateral disarmament negotiations” convened by the UN Secretary-General shortly before the commencement of this Session.

Mr. Chairman,

Thirty years after the Cold War, the international community continues to be threatened by the existence of more than twenty thousand nuclear warheads which are deploying and stockpiling in many parts of the world. Given the exceptionally catastrophic consequences of these horrific weapons for mankind, the only absolute guarantee against nuclear war is their complete elimination. Now is the high time for all of us to show strong determination and political will to achieve our common goal of general and complete disarmament. My delegation supports all initiatives toward a world free of nuclear weapons, including those by the Non-Aligned Movement, the Secretary-General in his five-point proposal, the Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament last September and the Nuclear security Summit in April. We welcome the recent signing of the New START between the Russian Federation and the United States and look forward to its ratification soon. My delegation particularly emphasizes the need to convene an international conference to identify effective ways and means to completely eliminating nuclear weapons in a specific time framework, the need for a global, legally binding unconditional instrument on negative security assurances, and many other important issues to assure a world without nuclear weapons.

For its part, Viet Nam commits to work harder with all member states to achieve the noble cause for sustainable peace and security of the world. Based on its consistent policy of striving for peace, opposing the arms race and preventing the proliferation of all kind of weapons of mass destruction, Viet Nam persistently pursues its long standing principled position to support general and complete disarmament with top priority given to nuclear disarmament. In this spirit, the country has acceded to core international arms-control instruments such as the NPT, the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and we have strictly complied with all their obligations.

My delegation views the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) as the backbone of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime and welcomes the successful outcome of the 2010 NPT Review Conference that adopted 64 sets of concrete actions. These forward looking action plans on three main pillars of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and the inalienable right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy must be implemented in full and non-selective manners. It is with this aim that the President of Viet Nam made a proposal at the Security Council Summit on nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament last September to convene an international conference on the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes.

My delegation attaches great importance to the strengthening of Disarmament Machinery with the First Committee as an essential component. We

reaffirm our support to revitalizing the work of the UNDC - as the sole specialized and deliberative body for in-depth deliberations on specific disarmament issues, as well as revitalizing the work of CD - as the sole multilateral disarmament negotiating forum. It is regrettable that the UNDC 2010 Session failed to reach agreement on its substantive issues, and the CD is still unable to agree on its 2010 Programme of Work. In this connection, my delegation highly commends the Secretary-General's initiative to convene the High Level Meeting on 24 September 2010 to revitalize the work of CD, so that the CD is enabled to perform its mandate to negotiate legally binding multilateral disarmament on the 4 core issues of nuclear disarmament, negative security assurances, prevention of an arm race in outer space and fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

Mr. Chairman, my delegation considers that the exiting nuclear-weapon free zones (NWFZ) have made significant contributions to strengthening nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regimes at regional and international levels. The 43rd ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Ha Noi, 19-20 July 2010 underscored the importance of preserving Southeast Asia as a Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone and free of all other weapons of mass destruction as enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and the SEANWFZ Treaty. Viet Nam is working hard with other ASEAN countries for the sustainable peace and security in both the Southeast Asia region and throughout the world. In this connection, we call upon all nuclear weapon states to ratify, as soon as possible, the Protocol annexed to the SEANWFZ Treaty, so as to demonstrate their serious commitment to the goal of a nuclear-weapon free world. We highly appreciate the Second Conference of States Parties and Signatories of Treaties that Establish Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones in April and welcome all efforts aimed at establishing NWFZs in all regions of the world, especially in the Middle East.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, I would like to reiterate that as peace-loving nation Viet Nam will do its utmost and spare no efforts to strive for the goal of complete disarmament and lasting international peace and security.

Thank you for your attention. /