



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

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**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Mr. Le Hoai Trung**

**Head of the Vietnamese delegation at the General Debate of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Session of  
the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference  
of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**

*New York, 29 April 2014*

*Mr. Chairman,*

1. Allow me at the outset to extend our warm congratulations on your election as the Chairman of this important session of the Preparatory Committee of the 2015 Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT). It is our conviction that under your able leadership, this session would arrive at a successful outcome that would lay a solid foundation for the 2015 Review Conference. My delegation associates itself with the statement made by H.E. Mr. Natalegawa, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the NPT.

*Mr. Chairman,*

2. As noted by previous speakers, this year's session bears great importance as we enter the final stages of preparation for the 2015 Review Conference. It is all the more significant as a number of great challenges still lay ahead. According to a number of researches, the total number of nuclear warheads is estimated to be at approximately 17.000, more than enough to put humankind at continued risk of total destruction many times over. Furthermore, nuclear weapons continue to claim a leading role in strategic doctrines of states that possess this kind of weapons of mass destruction. Nuclear disarmament, as the top priority in efforts towards general and complete disarmament, still lags behind progress in implementation of the 2010 64-point Action Plan in other areas, to name a few daunting tasks ahead.

3. Against that backdrop, the international community, including states parties to NPT, has great responsibility to redouble its efforts to ensure that the 2015 RevCon would transpire in the positive atmosphere that the Action Plan would have been implemented effectively and comprehensively. In the face of a number of challenges, it is crucial to reaffirm our commitment to the continued role of the NPT as the cornerstone of nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is also equally important to reiterate that these three pillars of the global regime of nuclear issues must be implemented in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

4. International efforts to this end should include, first and foremost, those by nuclear weapons states to fulfill their obligation under Article VI of the NPT and the 13 practical steps towards nuclear disarmament. Progress also should be made in the initiation of negotiation of internationally binding arrangements on assuring security for non-nuclear weapons states (negative security assurances) and negotiation of a fissile material cut-off treaty (FMCT).

5. While looking forward to the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), we should also allocate adequate investment to the role of nuclear-weapons-free zones. In this regard, any further failure to convene, as soon as possible, the Conference on a Middle East Zone free of Nuclear Weapons and other types of WMDs would call into question, in a serious manner, the credibility of the NPT as well as commitment by key players to the establishment of such a zone in a region already fraught with tension. We also call on NWSs to continue engagement with ASEAN Member States with a view to acceding, as soon as possible, to the Protocol to the Treaty of Southeast Asian Zone Free of Nuclear Weapons.

6. Challenges to nuclear proliferation should be addressed in a comprehensive and prudent manner. While sharing the view that relevant international obligations should be fulfilled, we are also of the view that diplomacy and peaceful settlement of disputes, whenever and wherever possible, should be given a chance, in which legitimate interests of parties concerned must be taken in account, including the right to peaceful use of nuclear energy. It is also critical to revitalize the disarmament machinery, including the Conference on Disarmament and the Disarmament Commission, with continued use of basic principles and practices, as consensually agreed at the First Special Session of the General Assembly on disarmament.

7. Successes have been proved feasible in areas related to the implementation of the 2010 Action Plan. The first ever High-Level Meeting of the UN General Assembly devoted solely to nuclear disarmament held in September 2013, its GA Follow-up resolution, as well as the recent Nuclear Security Summits and its outcomes are cases in point. Successes are also visible in the multifaceted technical cooperation between the International Atomic Energy Agency and a number of States Parties to the NPT, including developing countries. In this regard, we highly commend the role and the efforts by the IAEA in ensuring nuclear safety and security and in the promotion of peaceful use of nuclear energy in general.

*Mr. Chairman,*

8. Viet Nam is strongly committed to international efforts towards general and complete disarmament, to the role of the NPT as well as to fulfilling the responsibilities under the Treaty, including the 2010 Action Plan. Since the last Review Conference, we have taken steps to strengthen our adherence to relevant international instruments in this regard, including the ratification of the Additional Protocol to the Safeguards Agreement in September 2012, the accession to the Convention on Physical Protection of Nuclear Material (CPPNM) and the

ratification of its Amendment in October 2012, participation in the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and the Safety of Radioactive Source Management in September 2013. Viet Nam is now preparing for the ratification of the International Convention on the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

9. Viet Nam also made efforts to realize our commitment by practical steps. Viet Nam has continuously been working to strengthen its legal and regulatory framework for nuclear safety, security and safeguards to conform to the latest IAEA Nuclear Security Series. We successfully implemented core conversion from HEU to LEU fuel at Da Lat Research Reactor in 2011 and had all spent HEU fuels repatriated to the Russian Federation in July 2013. We have also maintained close cooperation with international partners on nuclear security and safety. Recently, in February 2014, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea and the IAEA signed the "Letter of Intent" to implement a Pilot Project for Radioactive Source Location Tracking System (RADLOT) in Viet Nam, contributing to the security of radioactive sources used for NDT. In its development of first nuclear power plants, Viet Nam has cooperated closely with the IAEA to ensure full compliance with relevant standards adopted by the Agency. As a member of the IAEA Board of Governors (2013-2015) and the Chair of the Board of Governors (2013-2014), Viet Nam has contributed to the promotion of the work of the Agency as well as its role in international cooperation.

*Mr. President,*

10. In conclusion, let me reiterate Viet Nam's commitment and willingness to work with states for a successful outcome of this important Session of the PrepCom. In doing so, in the face of numerous challenges, it is in our collective interests that states parties reaffirm their political commitment to the Action Plan and translate into concrete steps, in a comprehensive and balanced manner.

I thank you./.