

**STATEMENT**  
**By Mr. Vu Tran Phong**  
**Delegate of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**  
**at the 2017 NPT Preparatory Committee Session**  
**(Vienna, Austria, 4 May 2017)**

Mr. Chairman,

First of all, on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of this session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. Our Delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.

Mr. Chairman,

Despite some positive developments with the end of the Cold War, our world still has many nuclear weapons and we need to double our efforts towards nuclear disarmament.

Mr. Chairman,

The foreign policy of Viet Nam is the policy of independence, peace, cooperation and development. It is the consistent policy of Viet Nam to strive for peace, prevention of war and promotion of disarmament and international security in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Viet Nam is fully committed to its obligations under the Treaty of Non-proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Along this line, Viet Nam is a signatory of all internationally-negotiated treaties on the prohibition of weapons of mass destruction and its serious compliance is recognized by the various treaty bodies, including the implementation of the Safeguards Agreement of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Viet Nam has ratified the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Additional Protocol (AP) with IAEA.

Viet Nam's commitment to peace and disarmament is displayed, among other things, in its concrete contribution to the efforts for peace, friendship and cooperation in South East Asia,

including those within the frame-work of the South East Asian Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (SEANFWZ).

Mr. Chairman,

We fully support nuclear disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and peaceful use of nuclear energy. We hold that these “three pillars” of the NPT should be treated in a balanced, comprehensive and non-discriminating manner. We share determination to work towards preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and to achieve the goal of their total elimination.

We urge all Nuclear Weapon States to commit to concrete, verifiable and time-bound steps to reduce their nuclear stockpiles, as well as to immediately pledge to cease the qualitative improvement, development, production and stockpiling of nuclear warheads and their delivery systems. we also urge all Nuclear Weapon States to declare a moratorium on nuclear testing as an initial first step, and to de-alert the operational status of their nuclear-weapon systems. We also urge all Nuclear Weapon States to adopt a “no first use” policy and to provide legally binding “negative security assurances” to all Non- Nuclear Weapon States.

We share the legitimate, long-standing concern of Non-Nuclear Weapon States about the negotiation of a universal, unconditional and legally binding instrument on security assurances to NNWS against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons.

We believe that Nuclear Weapon-Free Zones constitute an important measure to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament. The Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ Treaty), or the Bangkok Treaty, entered into force in 1997 and we urge the NWS to consider the signing of the SEANWFZ Protocol. We also support for the establishment of a Middle East Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in accordance with relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

Viet Nam realizes both the benefits and the essential requirements of safety and security in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Viet Nam supports efforts to promote nuclear safety and security. At the same time, we attach great importance to the

expansion of assistance to developing countries in the use of nuclear energy.

In line with its consistent policy of using nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, while ensuring nuclear safety and security, Viet Nam has developed and is gradually improving its legal system, strengthening its capacity for nuclear security, safety, maintains control of radioactive sources, combats trafficking in nuclear materials as well as participates in international efforts aimed at ensuring nuclear security, accedes to and implements relevant international treaties, initiatives and resolutions of the United Nations Security Council.

Viet Nam ratified the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Additional Protocol in September 2012. In collaboration with the IAEA, the United States National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) and Russian Federation's State Atomic Energy Corporation (ROSATOM), July 2013 Vietnam's Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) successfully removed all last remaining highly enriched uranium from Vietnam's Dalat Nuclear Research Institute (DNRI). On its position as the Chair (2013-2014) and a member (2013-2015) of the IAEA Board of Governors, Viet Nam contributed to the safeguards and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. That demonstrated Vietnam's consistent policy of safe, secured, and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr. Chairman,

We need to reflect on what we achieved and what has not from the result of the last NPT Review Conference in 2015 and we need to go in the right direction.

As a Non-Nuclear Weapon State, Viet Nam is deeply concerned about the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and we emphasize the urgent need to prevent such consequences through the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

I would like to stress that Viet Nam voted in favour for the United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/258 of 23 December 2016, on a legally binding instrument to prohibit nuclear weapons, leading towards their total elimination.

Once again, on behalf of the Delegation of Viet Nam, I would like to stress the commitment and efforts of Viet Nam for the world of free nuclear weapons.

Thank you for your attention.