



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

Statement
by Ambassador Hoang Chi Trung,
Deputy Permanent Representative
at the General Debate of the First Committee
of the United Nations General Assembly
New York – Thursday, 8th October, 2009

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset and on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I wish to congratulate you on your assumption of the Chairmanship of the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. Our warm congratulations also go to the other members of the Bureau. My Delegation wishes you a successful outcome.

Vietnam fully associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of Indonesia on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement and the statement made by the distinguished representative of Myanmar on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the opening meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Chairman,

Vietnam shares the sense of optimism expressed by many delegations over the prospects of general and complete disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament in particular. Our work this year takes place against the backdrop of encouraging developments in the field of disarmament.

The Conference on Disarmament has agreed on its Programme of Work after years of stalemate. The Russian Federation and the United States of America have made renewed commitments in their bilateral negotiations to conclude a new instrument to replace the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty with deeper reduction of their respective nuclear arsenals.

The United Nations Security Council has just convened a summit meeting and adopted unanimously Resolution 1887. This resolution constitutes a comprehensive action on nuclear issues. It reaffirms the need for all Member States to fulfill their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and to prevent the proliferation of all weapons of mass destruction. We have seen a strong emphasis on

the issues of disarmament and non-proliferation at the General Debate of the General Assembly of the United Nations at this Session as well.

The existence of nuclear weapons will always pose a serious threat of nuclear disasters. We have advocated for many years that the only absolute guarantee against nuclear catastrophes is a complete elimination of these weapons. In this connection, we reiterate strong support for the convening an international conference to identify effective ways and means to free our world from all nuclear weapons in a specific time-frame.

The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is surely a cornerstone of the nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. We underscore the importance of a full and non-selective implementation of the treaty's three pillars which aim at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons technology, promoting cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and achieving the goal of nuclear disarmament. NWSs should undertake concrete steps to implement the package agreed at the 1995 NPT Review Conferences and reaffirmed at the 2000 NPT Review Conference.

My delegation further stresses the inalienable right of states to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty.

My delegation attaches a particular significance to the upcoming 2010 NPT Review Conference. We believe this event will offer an opportunity for member states to review the progress in implementing the treaty's provisions, to renew their commitments to the principles and purposes of the Treaty, and to agree upon means and measures to strengthen the Treaty in all its aspect.

Vietnam reaffirms its unswerving support for the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty which prohibits all nuclear testing and the modernization of existing nuclear weapons as well as the development of new sophisticated nuclear weapons. We remain in deep concern over the fact that after 13 years since the Treaty's opening for signature, this important treaty has not entered into force.

While welcoming recent ratifications, we urge states that had not ratified the treaty, especially the Annex 2 States, to do so as soon as possible. In this connection, we firmly believe that NWSs must take a leading role to enable the Treaty to enter into force without any further delay.

Mr. Chairman,

Vietnam strongly supports the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world. We consider nuclear-weapon-free zones as positive steps to strengthen nuclear non-proliferation regimes and to enhance regional and global peace and security. In this spirit, my delegation welcomes the entry into force this year of the treaties establishing NWFZs in Central Asia and in Africa.

Likewise, we wish to express our firm support for the convening of the Second Conference of States Party and Signatory to the Treaties of Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones next year. Such a conference will be a good opportunity to mobilize greater and

wider support for the implementation of these treaties and for the promotion of nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament objectives.

Regarding efforts to eliminate other types of weapons of mass destruction, the chemical and biological weapons in particular, my delegation underscores the important roles played by the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological Weapons Convention in preventing and eliminating the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.

Mr. Chairman,

With regards to the conventional arms, we recognize the negative impacts caused by small arms and light weapons, and support international efforts to curb the illegal manufacture, transfer and circulation of such arms and weapons.

Vietnam is convinced that the negotiations of an arms trade treaty should be carried out within the UN's framework, taking into full account the rights of States to manufacture, import, export conventional arms for their self defense in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations. All decisions related to a future ATT should be built through a consensus-based approach to ensure its universal acceptance and effective implementation.

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like to reiterate its firm support for the strengthening of the Disarmament Machinery. In this regard, we reaffirm our support for the work of the UNDC. It is regrettable that at its substantive 2009 session, member states failed to reach agreement on an agenda for the next three year cycle.

It is our sincere hope that at the 2010 Session, member states will demonstrate greater political will and flexibility to reach consensus on a substantive agenda for the next cycle in order to enable this important commission to consider and make practical recommendations on the issues of disarmament and arms control.

Early this year, the Conference on Disarmament managed to adopt its Programme of Work after more than a decade of deadlock and deep frustration. We hope that at its session in 2010, the member states will find common grounds and be able to begin negotiations on an instrument banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons as well as on other important issues of disarmament.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

