

STATEMENT

**By H.E. Ambassador Duong Chi Dung
Head of Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee Session**

(Geneva, Switzerland, April 2018)

Mr. Chairman,

I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your assumption of the Chairman of the second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the NPT. My delegation believe that the efforts made by you and other participants will help bring about the substantive discussions for the success of the coming NPT 2020 Review. Our Delegation assures you of its full support and cooperation.

[Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered by the Representative of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement]

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam maintains the foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, diversification and multilateralisation, with active regional and international integration. We advocate peace, cooperation, development and support multilateral efforts on non-proliferation toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. Viet Nam therefore calls for wider participation to international instruments in this regard, including the NPT, CTBT and the UN Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We believe that the best way to contribute to the success of NPT review is to individually and collectively fulfil all commitments under NPT. For our part, Viet Nam spares no effort to implement our obligations under NPT and related UN Security Council resolutions. At the same time, we uphold the NPT spirit that every Party to the Treaty has the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

Overall, we call for the speedy and equal implementation of all three pillars of the NPT. On each pillar, my delegation holds the following views:

Firstly, it is vital to amplify progress in nuclear disarmament to meet with the requirements of the NPT. Viet Nam therefore calls for effective implementation of relevant provisions of NPT, especially Article VI on the genuine negotiations in good faith and effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, toward general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

As for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we are encouraged to see preliminary signs of hope regarding the nuclear issue in the Northeast Asia. We look forward to more vigorous commitments and implementations of regional treaties of nuclear weapons free zones, as the expression of security assurance to non-nuclear weapon States. Joining our ASEAN fellow delegations, we call for nuclear weapon states to consider and soon access to the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Free Zone and its protocol. We also call for Parties to the Conference to implement the NPT Review Conference outcome, including the 1995 Resolution on establishing a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East.

As regard to peaceful use of nuclear energy, we reaffirm our supports for the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Viet Nam appreciate genuine partnership and technical assistance of the IAEA for NPT Parties, especially the developing countries, to ensure their rights and needs to develop and use nuclear energy in a safe, secure and peaceful manner. We undertake to continue close cooperation with the IAEA in this regard.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that political will, negotiation with good faith, transparency and inclusiveness are important to the NPT review success. In addition, improvement of working methods, synergy and better coordination among PrepCom Chairs are also keys for the NPT Review. We are convinced that, with our joint efforts and renewed commitments, we all would have every hope for the success of the coming NPT Review.

We thank you for your attention./.