



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

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**STATEMENT  
BY H.E. MR. LE CONG PHUNG  
FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. President,  
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, to warmly congratulate you, an eminent son of Gabon and of Africa, with which Viet Nam has always enjoyed warm sentiments and brotherly relations, on your election as President of the 59th Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your able guidance, this Session will be crowned with fine success. I also take this opportunity to express our high appreciation of the tremendous efforts and contributions made by the previous President, H.E. Mr. Julian Hunte, to the work of the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly.

Mr. President,

As the fifth year of the 21st century is approaching, we all cannot help asking ourselves whether the world is safer, fairer, or in a more comprehensive assessment, a better place for our peoples to live in. With all what has happened over the last year, unfortunately, the answer cannot be affirmative.

The recent barbaric and inhuman massacre of hostages at the school in Beslan of Russia, its scale and the manner in which it was committed show that terrorism has become more brutal than ever, that it is spreading to almost every corner of the world and sparing no nation. At this august forum, we wish to reaffirm the position of the Vietnamese Government denouncing every act of terrorism. We urge the international community to further strengthen cooperation with a view to eliminating terrorism from our civilized world. We have more than once stated our fundamental position that for it to enjoy broad support and participation and therefore be effective, the fight against terrorism must be pursued in conformity with the provisions of the UN Charter and must be free from selectivity and double standards. A serious review would reveal that is not a situation we can claim we have today. For a second time in two years, last April, in pursuit of their secessionist aim of creating a so-called "independent State of Degar", Kok Ksor and the organisation he created, the "Montagnard Foundation" staged a violent terrorist riot in the Central Highlands of Viet Nam, seriously threatening the security and territorial integrity of our country. And still today, they continue to enjoy unjustified protection by various forces.

Mr. President,

While being encouraged by the trend of enhanced cooperation and friendship among countries and regions, we are equally concerned about conflicts and other threats mounting in different areas, especially in the Middle East and Africa. The Iraqi people are yet to know of genuine peace. Non-traditional security threats such as narcotics, the spread of diseases, transnational organized crimes and environmental degradation continue to affect adversely the life of peoples and the development of nations.



A more peaceful, fairer and more favourable environment for development requires international economic relations based on equality, mutual benefits, shared responsibilities and the realization of commitments. Developed countries should seriously realize their commitments to allocate 0.7% of GDP for ODA, provide broader, faster and deeper debt relief to poor nations, finance development projects and create fairer and more favourable conditions for developing nations to access the world market and to join the WTO.

Viet Nam holds that regional and inter-regional cooperation and new partnerships between developed and developing countries are effective measures to put in place a fair and favourable condition for development and make sure that all nations will benefit from the present process of globalisation. We welcome the initiative on a new strategic partnership between Asia and Africa which is being discussed among countries of the two continents. The initiative "New Partnership for Africa's Development" (NEPAD) is

Development Programme in its Third Report on the Implementation of Millennium Development Goals in Viet Nam in 2003 assessed that Viet Nam is capable of overcoming challenges to reach the MDGs set in the UN Millennium Declaration. We wish to take this opportunity to express our deep gratitude to the UN agencies for their effective assistance. The UN agencies in Viet Nam have taken important steps to further enhance cooperation effectiveness, especially those within the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). We are committed to continuing to work with them in striving for the achievement of the MDGs.

In our reform process, Viet Nam pursues a foreign policy of openness, independence, sovereignty, diversification and multilateralisation of relations and is willing to be a friend and a reliable partner of all countries striving for independence, peace, development and co-operation. Increasing regional and inter-regional cooperation is a consistent policy and an inseparable component of the Vietnamese Government's policy towards greater international integration. Viet Nam is actively participating in economic cooperation activities within the frameworks of APEC, ASEM and ASEAN.

Within ASEAN, Viet Nam works closely with other ASEAN countries to promote regional cooperation through such initiatives as those concerning the building of the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-