



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA
SUITE 6370
NEW YORK, NY 10017

Please check against delivery

Statement by

H.E. NGUYEN THANH THUAN

DEPUTY MINISTER OF LABOUR, WELFARE AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS

AT THE 54TH SESSION

OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

New York, 2 March 2010

Mr. Chairperson,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It's my honor, on behalf of Vietnam's delegation, to extend my warm greetings to Mr. Myoamul Chairperson and distinguished participants at this important event. Vietnam highly appreciates the United Nations ECOSOC Committee on the Status of Women to review the 15-year implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. This is indeed a good opportunity for its member states to look back and review our achievements in promoting gender equality and women's advancement in the past years and discuss most effective measures to promote the implementation of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at national, regional and international levels.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

The Government and people of Vietnam are determined to realize the objectives of Beijing Platform for Action. The adoption of the Law on Gender Equality, Law on Prevention and Combating Domestic Violence, among other legal documents has laid a foundation for the establishment of state management agencies for gender equality, consultation and monitoring, and inter-sectoral cooperation mechanism for women's advancement facilitating the activities of Vietnam's women's union. These are important factors to promote women's advancement and bridging gender gaps. Vietnam is making constant efforts in realizing the goals of the National Strategy and Plan for the advancement

for Vietnamese Women by 2010. Our consistent policy of pursuing Beijing Platform on Action has been reaffirmed by the Government's efforts in effectively implementing the Government's Plan of Action for Women's Affairs in the Country's Era of Industrialization and Modernization by 2020, which was adopted in December 2009. The major aim of the Action Plan is to raise awareness, responsibility and efficiency of central and local government activities on women affairs, gender equality, promoting towards the goal of improving women's competence, education, training, professional expertise and skills which are commensurate with the requirements of the country's industrialization, modernization and international integration, creating employment for women, significantly improving their material, spiritual and cultural living standards; guaranteeing their participation in all aspects of social life, their equality in all fields; developing National Strategy (2011-2020) on gender equality, attracting the participation of community and private sector in developing research framework on gender equality and women's advancement in Vietnam.

Significant progresses have been gained in improving Vietnamese women's roles and status in all aspects of social life. Vietnam continues to be one of the leading countries in Asia Pacific which has highest rates of women in the National Assembly (25.76% in 2007-2011 term, an increase of 8% as compared with 17.76% in 2002-2006 term). Female labour force rate increased from 82.3% in 1993 to 90.5% in 2009, indicating women are being employed in higher participation rate in the labour market, accounting for 5,170,486 of the total employed workforce. The percentage of women in high skilled workforce is also high, at 47%; the percentage of women having access to health care services increased from 83.5% in 2005 to 85.3% in 2008. Vietnam's achievements in human development and gender development index have been recognized by international organizations. Vietnam stands among middle and upper group, 71st position out of 182 countries in Human Development Index and 94th out of 125 countries in Gender Development Index. In the Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), Vietnam ranked at 32 out of 95 countries, and in the Gender Gap Index (GGI) in 2008, Viet Nam ranked 68 out of 130 countries.

It is my pleasure to highlight Vietnam's experiences which help make these achievements possible, to this meeting as follows. First, economic development should be pursued in tandem with social development and poverty reduction. Second, efforts in strengthening state management in gender equality should be made in connection with specific activities, programs and initiatives to promote women's advancement in practice at all levels. Third, women's will and efforts for

their advancement should be at the center of women's empowerment activities. And fourth, international cooperation, sharing of experience and good practices is an important role in promoting gender equality and women's advancement.

Mr./Madam Chairperson,

With strong political commitment, Vietnam has gained encouraging achievements. However, like many other countries, major difficulties and challenges still lie ahead for us in promoting gender equality and women's advancement. The lingering prejudice of preference for men and undervaluing women still exist in rural areas. The conservative approach of allocating domestic works for women and girls in a number of rural families and villages is hindering opportunities for girls to access to education, women to participate in social activities and to enjoy status and some on an equal footing as men. Maltreatment against women still exists in both urban and rural areas, in all social strata. There are wide gaps in knowledge and experience in analysing gender equality in developing legislative documents, socio-economic programs and projects. Gender equality institutions are in the early stage of development with limited financial and human resources. Gender equality officers have limited knowledge and skills to undertake their tasks. Moreover, new challenges are arising in a process of globalization, namely, HIV/AIDS prevalence among women and girls, prostitution, trafficking of women and children, women in getting married with foreigners for lucrative purposes, women migrants facing new challenges. etc. These challenges are placing major obstacles for Vietnam to effectively implement the Beijing Platform for Action. The immediate tasks are challenging, which requires strong political determination in combination with practical and strategic measures and joint efforts with international partners towards the WFP 2015-2020 goals.

In the spirit of strategic objectives of the Beijing Conference, the Government of Vietnam has determined to effectively implement the Gender Equality Law, adopt and implement successfully the National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2011-2020 period; make significant efforts in economic development and poverty reduction; and promote the equality rights of women and girls.

On this occasion, we would like to express our sincere thanks for the effective support and assistance from international organizations and the United Nations in promoting the Beijing Platform for Action in particular and realizing gender equality objectives in Vietnam in general. It is our wish to see joint cooperation and close and fruitful in the future.

With very good health and our best wishes for success

their advancement should be at the centre of women's empowerment activities. And finally, it is important to ensure that women's advancement is an important role in promoting gender equality and women's advancement.

1.1. Introduction

With strong political commitment, Vietnam has gained encouraging achievements. However, like many other countries, major difficulties and challenges still lie ahead for us in promoting gender equality and women's advancement. The lingering prejudice of patriarchy for men and undervaluing women still exist in rural areas. The conservative approach of allocating domestic work to women and girls in a number of families in Vietnam is hindering opportunities for girls to access to education, women to participate in social activities and to enjoy status income on an equal footing as men. Maternal and child mortality rates in both urban and rural areas, in all social strata, have not been reduced significantly. The gap in knowledge and experience in maintaining gender equality in developing textile documents, socio-economic programs and projects. Gender equality institutions are in the early stage of development, with limited financial and human resources. Gender equality officers have limited knowledge and skills to undertake their tasks. Moreover, new challenges are emerging in the areas of globalization, namely, HIV/AIDS prevalence among women and girls; prostitution; trafficking of women and children; women getting married with foreigners for lucrative purposes; women migrants facing new challenges, etc. These challenges are placing major obstacles for Vietnam to effectively implement the Beijing Platform for Action. The immediate tasks are challenging, which require strong political determination in combination with practical and strategic measures and joint efforts with international partners towards the common goal in Vietnam.

In the spirit of strategic objectives of the Beijing Conference, the Government of Vietnam is determined to effectively enforce the Gender Equality Law, adopt and implement successfully the National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2011-2020 period, raise continued efforts in economic development and poverty reduction, and

On this occasion, on behalf of the Government of Vietnam, I would like to express our sincere thanks for the effective support and cooperation of countries, international organizations, and the United Nations in implementing Beijing Platform for Action in particular and realizing gender equality objectives in Vietnam in general. It is our wish to see the cooperation close and fruitful in the

With your good health and our best wishes