



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

**866 UNITED NATIONS PLAZA  
SUITE 435  
NEW YORK, NY 10017**

---

*Check against delivery*

**STATEMENT  
BY H.E. LE CONG PHUNG  
FIRST DEPUTY MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE 61<sup>st</sup> UN GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY**

*New York, 25 September 2006*

*Madam President,*

At the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, may I extend our warmest congratulations to You, the third woman in the UN history elected as President of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your wise leadership, the 61<sup>st</sup> Session will be crowned with success. I also wish to convey our high appreciation of the tremendous efforts undertaken and active contributions made by His Excellency Jan Eliasson during his presidency of the 60<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly. As H.E. Kofi Annan's last term of duty as Secretary General of the United Nations is coming close, I wish, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, to express our high appreciation of his dedication and commitment to our Organization. His visit to Viet Nam last May has laid another milestone in the history of the ever-growing Viet Nam-UN co-operative relationship.

*Madam President,*

The 2005 World Summit lit up our hope for the achievement by the international community of the MDGs set out by our leaders at the Millennium Summit of 2000. Regrettably, one year has elapsed and the picture of the world we see today is one of so many paradoxes. Although the trend of peace, cooperation and development continue to prevail, so do the unilateral use of force, the escalation of the regional and ethnic conflicts as well as international terrorism. We have also seen serious hardships faced by developing countries under the pressure of globalization and inequality in international economic relations. Poverty, epidemics, drugs and trans-

national crimes pose even greater threats to hundreds of millions of people around the world.

Against such a backdrop, in the view of the Vietnamese Delegation, continued joint efforts to create a favorable environment for the achievement of the MDGs are even more imperative. We consider the theme chosen for this 61<sup>st</sup> Session of the General Assembly focusing on global partnership for development as highly relevant.

*Madam President,*

Peace and socio-political stability are indispensable for development. In return, positive economic development and improved living standards of the people help consolidate peace and stability in each country, each region and the world as a whole. It is essential that countries work together to settle differences and disputes through dialogues, abandon the use of force in their relations and fully comply with the UN Charter and international law in order to build a peaceful and stable environment in the interest of all. I wish to reaffirm Viet Nam's strong support for efforts to reach early peaceful settlements of international and regional conflicts and differences, including the nuclear issues on the Korean Peninsula and in Iran, and the crisis in the Middle East where the recent hostilities in Lebanon, which caused heavy losses in lives of innocent people and destruction of the infrastructure of the country, serves as a typical example of harm brought about by unilateral actions. In this connection, I wish to state Vietnam's consistent policy to support the just struggle of the Palestinian people for their inalienable rights and call on parties concerned to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Middle East, including Resolution 1701, and soon arrive at a fair and lasting solution for peace and stability in the region.

*Madam President,*

Viet Nam is deeply concerned with surging terrorism in the world. We will continue to support joint efforts of the international community to combat terrorism on the basis of the fundamental principles of the UN Charter and international law as well as respect for national sovereignty. The deep roots of terrorism, including poverty, inequality and injustice, must be eliminated. What should also be mentioned here, *Madam President*, is the unfortunate reality that in many cases, the suppression of terrorist organizations, including the ones against Vietnam are being undertaken selectively with double standards. It is our view that such conduct may leave room for more international terrorist acts.

*Madam President,*

Achievements in science and technology, especially information technology, and globalization have brought about great opportunities for all countries. They have also brought about the dark side of international economic relations. Widened development gap between the rich and the poor poses potential threats to world peace and security. In the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, our leaders called for the establishment of a global partnership for development to enhance cooperation in all financial, trade and investment areas and called for increased assistance to developing countries, considering that such steps by the international community would contribute to establishing a favourable environment for the achievement of the MDGs. Such global partnership is yet to be seen and we are concerned with increasing adverse impacts of globalization. The failure of the Doha Round, the strengthening of protectionism in a number of developed countries, fluctuating prices of oil and gold are causing more and more difficulties for developing nations in their efforts to achieve their MDGs. A typical example of this situation is the anti-dumping tariff imposed on Vietnamese catfish, shrimp in the past years and footwear at the present which is affecting the life of millions of poor people. This measure goes counter to WTO rules and the spirit of trade liberalization pursued by Member States. It should be pointed out that developing nations' increased integration in the world economy is indeed an important element assuring the achievement of the MDGs. Developing countries should be supported and assisted to join the WTO as early as possible. Non-tariff barriers under disguises such as hygiene and safety standards among others should be removed to facilitate their access to developed economies' markets. We have on many occasions expressed our view that in our times embargo and sanctions are completely obsolete policies. We once again call for an early lifting of the unilateral economic and trade embargo against Cuba.

Viet Nam welcomes the fact that a number of countries have set up roadmaps to allocate 0.7% of their GNPs to ODA without any conditions. Technology transfer, capacity building and human resource development should be further promoted. We welcome initiatives to settle the debts of poor countries, the solutions outlined in the Monterrey Consensus and the recent efforts of the international community towards this end. The United Nations should work out, especially at the national level, measures to further incorporate the MDGs in the implementation of global commitments undertaken during the past decade in the areas concerning women, children, population, development, HIV/AIDS prevention, housing, environment and social development.

*Madam President,*

Viet Nam supports efforts to strengthen multilateral mechanisms, in which the UN should play a central role, with a view to building and ensuring a peaceful and stable environment in the world. The United Nations should be reformed to improve its effectiveness, democratization, and modes of operation on the basis of the fundamental principles enshrined in its Charter. While welcoming initial successes in the UN reform process such as the establishment of the Human Rights Council and the Peacebuilding Commission, we realize that much remains to be done. Measures are needed to consolidate the central role and power of the General Assembly; the Security Council should also be reformed in both its composition and methods of work to ensure that it really represents the concerns and interests of all UN members as stipulated in the Charter.

*Madam President,*

Viet Nam has made remarkable progress in implementing the MDGs and we are well in a position to meet the 2015 deadline. Based on our own experience, we believe that each country should, first and foremost, strive to create and maintain a peaceful environment for development; mobilize the broad participation by the people of all walks of life in poverty reduction efforts and the reserve preferential treatments to the poor, vulnerable groups and people living in remote and difficult areas with a view to helping them catch up with the majority. Furthermore, effective prevention of natural disasters and mitigation of their consequences are crucial factors

*Madam President,*

To create a peaceful environment for national development, Viet Nam will continue with its foreign policy of sovereign independence, peace, cooperation and development. We continue to be a friend and reliable partner of all countries in the international community striving for peace and co-operation and we will continue to actively participate in regional and international cooperation. We are in the final stage leading to accession to the World Trade Organization. Viet Nam is also running for non-permanent membership of the United Nations Security Council for the term 2008-2009. In pursuing our policy of international integration and in contributing to the common endeavors of the international community, we look forward to continued support from member countries.

I thank you ./.