

**Statement by Ms. Pham Thi Thu Huong, Representative of
the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the Sixth Committee of the 68th Session
of the General Assembly on
Agenda Item 83 “Consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from
hazardous activities and allocation of loss in the case of such harm”**

22 October 2013

Mr. Chairman,

At the outset, Viet Nam would like to thank the Secretary General for his reports A/68/94 on decisions of international courts, tribunals and other bodies and A/68/170 on comments and observations from governments on the consideration of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss caused by such harm. The questions of prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss are of major importance in the relations between States. In this regard, Viet Nam highly appreciates the work done by the International Law Commission, in particular the adoption of the draft articles on prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities, annexed to the GA resolution 62/68 and the adoption of principles on the allocation of loss arising out of hazardous activities annexed to the GA resolution 61/36. The two texts present a progress in progressive development of international law on the protection of environment in the event of transboundary damage. They are valuable guidelines for States in taking measures and cooperating to each other to prevent transboundary harm from hazardous activities and to address their consequences.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the significance of the topic, Viet Nam supports the International Law Commission’s recommendations on the elaboration of a convention on the basis of the draft articles to set up a legal framework for effective cooperation and implementation of measures to prevent and cope with transboundary harm. In our view, such instrument should cover not only the prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities but also the liability aspects, including the allocation of loss caused by such harm since the two issues are interrelated. However, elaboration of a convention may take a long time and requires thorough

examination of the draft articles and principles and their application in practice at both bilateral and regional levels. For the time being, Viet Nam welcomes further comments and information on relevant State practice relating prevention of transboundary harm from hazardous activities and allocation of loss caused by such harm and wishes to discuss and work with other states in this regard.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.