



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

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STATEMENT

BY

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OF

**THE PERMANENT MISSION OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF
VIET NAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

AT

**THE HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT**

OF

THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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Madame President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me, at the outset, thank the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary General for their endeavors in bringing together distinguished delegates from around the globe, as well as those from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations, to discuss international migration, a burning issue of our time. I am convinced that the High-Level Dialogue of the General Assembly on International Migration and Development offers a historic opportunity for a far-reaching discussion on and an advanced understanding of multidimensional aspects of international migration and development. Viet Nam, which has about 2.5 million migrants and migrant workers in more than 80 countries and territories, will do whatever we can to contribute to the success of this new process.

Madame President,

Viet Nam associates itself with the statement made by the distinguished representative of South Africa on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. My delegation also shares most of the views expressed by the Secretary General in his Report "*International Migration and Development*", as well as his statement at the opening of this Dialogue.

Today international migration is widely envisioned in the context of globalization and the growing wealth disparities it engenders between different countries and regions. In our view, people are drawn to migrate mainly because of the "pull" factors, which are encouraged by the demand for more flexible labor in countries of destination. That is a natural phenomenon and an "unfinished business of globalization"! There is no doubt that, apart from making contributions towards the prosperity of destination countries, migrants play an increasingly important role in promoting development and poverty reduction in countries of origin.

While there is growing recognition that international migration flows have increased over time, dynamics and policy implications of this phenomenon have not been given adequate attention internationally and regionally. The protection of the human rights of migrants and migrant workers, including the rights to education, food and adequate housing, have largely been ignored. The exploitation of migrants, especially women and children, through people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related

transnational crime still happen. Today, women constitute half of the global migrant population and they are among the world's most vulnerable workers. Their working conditions vary enormously. Some are treated as members of the employer's family, while others are exploited and subjected to conditions which in some cases amount to virtual slavery, forced labor, servitude or sexual exploitation.

Madame President,

Over the past few decades, migration has grown in volume and migration trends have become more and more complex. However, policy discussion on migration issues is now far beyond a regional or sub-regional scope, while a global mechanism capable to cope with the complexities and challenges that stem from growing migration has not been put in place, even one under the United Nations. For many years now, only the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and some regional arrangements, in collaboration with related U.N. agencies, have been actively involved in migration cooperation.

For this "unfinished business of globalization" to be effectively dealt with, Viet Nam is of the view that, in parallel with enhancing bilateral and regional cooperation on migration, there is an urgent need to establish more institutional mechanisms which can serve as a forum for all States, as well as international organizations and agencies, to exchange views and experiences, and to promote the cooperation and coordination of efforts with a view to better addressing migration issues at the global level. It is also our hope that the High-Level Dialogue, on the one hand, could focus on considering ways and means to further enhance IOM's role in migration and to integrate it more closely into the U.N. inter-agency system. On the other hand, the High-Level Dialogue and its follow-up meetings should discuss steps and measures to further integrate migration into national and international development strategies, and promote partnerships, capacity building and the sharing of best practices at all levels, including bilateral and regional levels, for the benefit of origin and destination countries alike, as well as of migrants, in order to fill a perceived migration gap in the U.N. system.

Thank you, Madame President.