



**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
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**Statement by Ms. Nguyen Cam Linh  
Third Secretary of the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
at the Third Committee of the 67<sup>th</sup> Session of General Assembly  
On agenda item: “Advancement of women”  
17 June 2012**

Mr. Chairman,

My Delegation wishes to thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important topic. My Delegation aligns itself with the statements made yesterday by the distinguished Representative of Algeria on behalf of G77 and China, and the distinguished Representative of Malaysia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

Mr. Chairman,

The intensification of efforts to improve the status of women around the world in recent years has created favorable conditions for women to access education, healthcare services, own property and actively participate in economic, social activities and policy planning. However, discrimination and negative attitude toward women continue to hinder the advancement of women. In that context, my delegation would like to highlight the following points:

*Firstly*, gender equality is smart economics. Practices have shown that increased women’s participation in labor force and earnings are associated with reduced poverty and faster economic growth, not only women will benefit from their economic empowerment, but also men, children and society as a whole. Therefore, to promote economic development and attain the MDGs, especially MDG on poverty reduction, the international community must renew its attention to women’s economic empowerment and increase investments in women.

*Secondly*, gender mainstreaming continues to be one of the most effective measures to attain gender equality. Therefore, mainstreaming gender in all strategies, policies and programs, particularly those related to development, as well as in the legal system, at all levels is very important. This, once implemented, will help ensure

that woman's needs and priorities are better met, social benefits distributed fairly and equally, and women empowerment no longer a watchword.

*Thirdly*, national laws and policies that focus on targeting the root causes of gender gaps are essential, effective and can bring the most changes to gender equality. However, to ensure that progress on gender equality is sustained, the international community also has an important role in complementing these efforts by providing timely and necessary financial resources, providing technical assistance to improve database and data collection, impact evaluation and sharing of best practices.

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam is committed to the advancement of women and gender equality, demonstrated by Viet Nam's ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1982. Furthermore, equality between men and women in all areas has always been specified in Viet Nam's Constitution, national policies and laws, for example equality in the rights to work and equal pay, rights to own and inherit property, and rights to voluntary marriage or divorce, are reflected in the Law on Gender Equality, the Law on Prevention and Control of Domestic Violence, the Labor Code, the Land Law, the Law on Marriage and Family and many more. Additionally, numerous national strategies and programs on gender equality were put in place, most recently was the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the period 2011-2020, the National Programs on Gender Equality for the period 2011 – 2015, which aimed to improve the quality of female human resources, enhance the participation of women to reduce the gender gap in political systems, economic activities, labor force and employment; and increase access of poor rural women, ethnic minority women to economic resources, labor market. The issue of women empowerment is also incorporated into many others national strategies such as the National Strategy on the Prevention of HIV/AIDS with a vision to 2020, National Target Program on Responding to Climate Change, National Strategy on Nutrition for the period 2011-2020 with a vision to 2030...

As the result of the concerted implementation of the afore-mentioned laws, policies and strategies, the gap between men and women in the areas of economics, education, politics, etc. was narrowed. More and more women are participating in economic activities, creating jobs and playing the key role in a number of sectors. According to statistics, the percentages of men and women participating in economic activities are now almost equal with 83% for women and 85% for men. Over 50% of poor households headed by women get loans from the National Target Program on Poverty Reduction, 45% of women get loans from the social policies banks to improve their own production, which contributed positively to the achievement of poverty reduction in Viet Nam. According to the World Bank, Viet Nam is one of the world's leading countries in women's participation in economic activities and the country that achieved the most rapid changes in reducing gender gap in the past 20 years in South East Asia. The difference between men and women in the labor force is reduced to only 1.2% (49.4% female; 50.6% of male employed) and regularly

maintained. Literacy rate for male over 10 years old or older is only higher than that of female 6%. The gap for the enrollment of boys, girls in all school levels was also reduced. The dropping out of girls from school has been improved. On average, the graduation rate for female students is higher than for male. In National Assembly, the percentage of female representatives for the period 1997-2002 was 26.2 percent; for 2002-2007 was 27.3%; 2007-2011 was 25.76%, ranked 31st in the world and for 2011 - 2016 is 24.4%. For over the past 15 years, Viet Nam has always had female Vice President. The voice of women in deciding major issues in their family and the old-fashioned tradition of favoring sons over daughters have been improved. In Viet Nam, a certificate of land entitlement is only lawful if bearing the names of both the husband and the wife.

Mr. Chairman,

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate Viet Nam's continued commitments to the cause of gender equality and the advancement of women, as we already are. Viet Nam is willing and always ready to work with other countries to safeguard women's rights and interests, advance their status and promote the development of the international cause of women.

I thank you./.