



SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
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Statement
by H.E. Mr. Pham Quang Vinh
Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs
of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the General Debate
of the 67th Session of the United Nations General Assembly
(New York, 1 October 2012)

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Mr. President,

Distinguished Delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of Viet Nam, I extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Vuk Jeremic on your election as President of the 67th Session of the General Assembly. I am confident that under your stewardship, this Session will be crowned with success. I appreciate the excellent work done by Mr. Secretary-General and welcome the outcomes of the 66th Session presided over by Mr. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser.

Mr. President,

To start with, we would like to welcome the theme proposed for this year's General Debate – *“bringing about adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations by peaceful means”*. This theme is of particular relevance in today's world, when instability and conflicts continue in various regions, especially in North Africa and the Middle East.

The decades-long Palestine-Israel conflict lingers on and requires a satisfactory solution which includes the establishment of an independent sovereign Palestinian State co-existing peacefully with the State of Israel.

Progress is yet to be made in disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, while the risk of WMD proliferation continues to grow.

New, complicated developments are emerging in Asia-Pacific, a dynamically growing and important region of the world.

We believe that the successful outcome of this General Assembly will significantly contribute to the primary goal of the UN in maintaining world peace and security.

Accordingly, we must further uphold international law and strengthen its compliance. Nations must strongly commit themselves to the fundamental principles of international law and the UN Charter, particularly those of peaceful settlement of disputes and non-use of force as well as respect for the national independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of states. We must promote dialogue and the use of peaceful means in the settlement of disputes, particularly utilizing such roles of international and regional organizations and international legal mechanisms. On the other hand, we must not accept the imposition of sanctions like those against Cuba that this very Assembly has repeatedly called for removal.

International law is an intellectual creation of the civilized world, which all states must respect and abide by in good faith. When international law is enforced, the risk of conflict will be minimized, a sustained peace will be better secured.

Viet Nam therefore welcomes the important outcomes of the recent High-level Meeting on the Rule of Law, which reaffirmed that rule of law is fundamental to political dialogue and cooperation among states and the indispensable bedrock for a more peaceful, prosperous and just world. Compliance with international law is an essential principle guiding the policies and actions of each nation, as well as the joint endeavours of the international community.

As we will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea later this year, we should further reaffirm our strong commitment to and compliance with this “constitution of the seas”, which contributes to the maintenance of peace, stability, maritime security, safety and cooperation.

Mr. President,

Entrusted by the international community, the United Nations continues to play an indispensable role in maintenance of international peace and security.

Viet Nam commends the work done by the United Nations, especially in helping settle regional disputes and conflicts by peaceful means, including through the strengthened use of peacekeeping operations. We expect the Organization will continue to build further upon its experience in this area and promote a culture of peace and dialogue to better resolve the on-going conflicts and prevent the eruption of new ones.

The United Nations must step up efforts in disarmament and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, while strengthening

international cooperation and ensuring the right of states to use related technologies for peaceful purposes. Multilateral negotiating fora in this area, particularly the Conference on Disarmament, must be revitalized and intensified.

Furthermore, we should recognize the increasingly important role of regional organizations. In East Asia, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) continues to play a central role in the regional architecture and helps promote peace, stability and security in the region, including maritime security in the South China Sea. Viet Nam fully supports ASEAN's Six-point Principles on South China Sea, which further reaffirms the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, respect for international law, particularly the 1982 UNCLOS, the full implementation of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) as well as the early achievement of a Code of Conduct (COC).

Mr. President,

Peace is the prerequisite for development. Yet, it is sustainable development, including the end of poverty and promotion of social justice, and the elimination of inequality in international relations that help resolve the root causes of conflicts and lay the foundation for a sustained peace.

Today, the global economy continues in difficulty. The Doha Development Round is yet to make progress, while protectionism persists and the shortcomings of the international economic and financial systems are yet to be overcome. As a result, many countries, especially developing ones, continue to face great difficulties in their development, including in the endeavours to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

In that context, it is essential that we reaffirm our strong political commitment to ensure the realization of the MDGs, the promotion of inclusive sustainable and green development, and the effective response to natural disasters and climate change.

The UN needs to strengthen global partnerships for development and take the lead in an inclusive process to formulate the post-2015 global development agenda, including the proposed sustainable development goals. In this regard, we urge developed countries to fulfill their pledge for increased development assistance and support developing countries in capacity building.

Mr. President,

This year, Viet Nam commemorates the 35th anniversary of its UN membership. Throughout all these years, Viet Nam has always been an active and responsible member of the Organization, striving for peace, national independence, democracy, social progress and prosperity for all nations.

Building on its 25 years of reform and important accomplishments, Viet Nam has been working towards a growth model that links economic development with social progress and environmental protection. In face of recent global economic difficulties, Viet Nam has taken effective steps to maintain macro-economic stability and ensure social security. Viet Nam continues to strengthen the rule of law and build a State of the people, by the people and for the people, which places the people in the center and promotes their ownership and rights in all spheres.

Pursuing the policy of proactive international integration, Viet Nam continues to contribute actively to the work of the United Nations, ASEAN, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Francophonie. We also contribute constructively in multilateral endeavours to respond to global challenges like nuclear security, WMD disarmament and non-proliferation, sustainable development, climate change, water security, food security and achievement of the MDGs. Viet Nam is implementing with good results the UN initiative of Delivering as One. To further contribute to the work of the UN, Viet Nam has put forth its candidature for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2014-2016 and we look forward to your support.

Viet Nam always supports efforts to enhance the role and effectiveness of the United Nations to enable the Organization to become the true center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of the common goals as enshrined in its Charter. We therefore support the continued reform of the United Nations, including the strengthening of the General Assembly as the most representative deliberative body and of the ECOSOC in the field of socio-economic development, as well as the expansion of Security Council membership and reform of its working methods.

I thank you, Mr. President./.