



STATEMENT

**By H.E. Ambassador Duong Chi Dung
Head of Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
at the 2018 NPT Preparatory Committee Session**

(Geneva, Switzerland, 25 April 2018)

Mr. Chairman,

My delegation would like first of all to congratulate you on your election as the Chair of this second session of the Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference. We firmly believe that our joint efforts will bring about substantive inputs for the success of this important session and of the upcoming NPT 2020 Review. We assure you of our full support and cooperation.

My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by H.E. Ambassador of Venezuela on behalf of the Non-Alignment Movement.

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam maintains the foreign policy of independence, sovereignty, diversification and multilateralisation, with active regional and international integration. We advocate for peace, cooperation and development, and support multilateral efforts on non-proliferation toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. Viet Nam therefore calls for wider participation to international instruments in this regard, including the NPT, CTBT and the UN Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

We believe that the best way to contribute to the success of NPT review is to individually and collectively fulfil all commitments under NPT. For our part, Viet Nam spares no efforts to implement our obligations under NPT and related UN Security Council resolutions. At the same time, we uphold the NPT spirit that every Party to the Treaty has the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination.

Mr. Chairman,

While calling for the speedy and equal implementation of all three pillars of the NPT, we would like to stress the following:

First, it is vital to amplify progress in nuclear disarmament to meet with the requirements of the NPT. Viet Nam therefore calls for the effective implementation of relevant provisions of NPT, especially Article VI on the genuine negotiations in good faith and effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament, toward general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.

Second, as for the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we are encouraged to see preliminary signs of hope regarding the nuclear issue in the Northeast Asia. We look forward to more vigorous commitments and implementations of regional treaties of nuclear weapons free zones, as the expression of security assurance to non nuclear weapon States. Joining our ASEAN fellow delegations, we call on nuclear weapon states to consider and soon accede to the Treaty of Southeast Asia Nuclear Free Zone and its protocol. We also call on Parties to implement the NPT Review 1995 outcome, including the Resolution on establishing a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East.

Third, as regard to peaceful use of nuclear energy, we reaffirm our supports for the inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. Viet Nam appreciate genuine partnership and technical assistance of the IAEA for NPT member parties, especially the developing countries, to ensure their rights and needs to develop and use nuclear energy in a safe, secure and peaceful manner. We undertake to continue close cooperation with the IAEA in this field.

Mr. Chairman,

We believe that political will, negotiation in good faith, transparency and inclusiveness are important to the NPT review success. In addition, improvement of working methods, synergy and better coordination among PrepCom Chairs are also keys for the fruitful NPT Review. In this regard, we congratulate H.E. Ambassador of Malaysia Ikram Yaakob for his election as the Chair of the forthcoming 3rd PrepCom. We are convinced that, with our joint efforts and renewed commitments, we all would have every hope for the success of the coming 2020 NPT Review Conference. For my country Viet Nam, striving for the successful implementation of the NPT and its review process is part of our commitment to be a faithful partner for the world sustaining peace.

Thank you for your attention./.