



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

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Statement

**by Mr. Hoang Chi Trung, Minister, Deputy Permanent Representative
of Viet Nam at the open debate of the Security Council on agenda item “Women
and peace and security”**

New York, 23 October 2007

Mr. President,

First of all, let me, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, thank you and the Delegation of Ghana for taking the initiative in organizing this open debate. As a member-elect of the Council, we look forward to working with the other members of the Council to bring about further progress in implementing resolution 1325 (2000). I thank the Secretary-General for his report we have before us.

Mr. President,

Alongside basic instruments on gender equality such as the CEDAW Convention and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) continues to be the rule of thumb in dealing with the issue of women, peace and security. The Vietnamese Delegation is pleased to note that, as highlighted in the report of the Secretary General, the work of the United Nations entities since the first review of the implementation of the Action Plan held in 2006 has laid important groundwork for a long-term effort by the United Nations system towards full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). While progress has been reported in a wide range of spheres of activities such as conflict prevention and early warning, peacemaking and peace building, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian response, post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, preventing and responding to gender-based violence in armed conflict, and preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel, to my Delegation, most important of all is the increased political commitment of many entities to gender equality and women’s empowerment in peace processes. We would not have seen an improved advocacy, an enhanced leadership and greater support by senior officials of those entities and their better engagement with Member States and partnership with national machineries for women and women’s associations and networks - all valuable and commendable - without such increased political

commitment. The big number of entities involved on the one hand points to the potentials of the United Nations system to advance our cause, on the other hand shows how big the need is for ensuring effective inter-agency coordination. In this connection, besides the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, my Delegation commends the efforts made by the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security.

Mr. President,

The report of the Secretary General does point out that while both the 2006 and 2007 implementation reviews clearly demonstrate the progress mentioned above, they do, however, identify a number of institutional gaps and challenges and the weaknesses of the Action Plan itself. Gender imbalance has not been adequately addressed, leaving women underrepresented in the UN Secretariat and, in some areas, women representation has even decreased as compared to last year. Capacity building, coordination and cooperation of and among UN entities should be considerably improved. On top of that, the issue of adequate and predictable funding, as always, requires undivided attention if we are to strengthen and further the progress. We agree with the Secretary General that taken together, such gaps and challenges constitute shortcomings of the United Nations system to effectively implement resolution 1235 (2000). On the way forward, the reconceptualization of the 2008-2009 Action Plan is designed to address those gaps and challenges, including in the areas of monitoring and reporting, capacity-building, partnerships and networking, etc...The result-based framework of 2008-2009 is developed to produce concrete and measurable results. We agree with the intention to consolidate all activities of the United Nations entities under the updated 2008-2009 Action Plan into five thematic areas. While sharing the hope that this step will help improve both implementation and monitoring, we think, however, that we should not lose sight of actions aiming at long-term impact which is sometimes intangible and hard to measure. On another note, we support the proposed establishment of a database on good practices and lessons learned.

Mr. President,

Vietnamese women have always played an active role in national defense in time of war and in national construction in time of peace. In Viet Nam today, gender-sensitive legislations, policies, strategies and programmes of action, the network of national machineries for the advancement of women all work together for the achievement of gender equality and advancement of women in all aspects of life - political, economic and social. In Viet Nam, the cause of advancing women and enhancing their role enjoys the constant support of the country's leadership, and, of men. We will continue to support and cooperate with the United Nations entities, NGO's and other partners in implementing resolution 1325 (2000).

I thank you, Mr. President!