

**STATEMENT  
BY  
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VIETNAM  
HEAD OF THE DELEGATION OF THE SOCIALIST  
REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM  
TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES TO  
THE UNFCCC  
(Kyoto, Japan, 1-10 December, 1997)**

Mr. President  
Distinguished participants  
Ladies and gentlemen,

I have the great honour on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to participate in this important conference. I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you on your election as President of this conference. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our thanks to the government and people of Japan for their hospitality and precious assistance in organizing this important event in Kyoto, a beautiful and ancient city. We highly appreciate the Secretariat for its efforts in preparation and organization of this conference. I hope that progress be made in the protection of the global climate system.

Mr. President,

Vietnam is situated in one of the most natural disaster prone areas in the world with many typhoons and floods each year. In recent years, the intensities and frequencies of extreme weather phenomena have had the obvious increasing tendency. Only last month, typhoon Linda reached the southern coast of Vietnam, the area which had not experienced typhoon and storm surge of such a

magnitude for the last 93 years. Linda was dumping torrential rains and had reached 100 km per hour. It was reported that 546 people died due to typhoon Linda and over 3,000 others are still missing. The storm caused an estimated loss of about 500 million US dollars, sinking more than 3,000 fishing trawlers and more than 1,800 ships are missing. Last year, 9 typhoons and big floods left the country with more than 1,000 people dead, causing damages which were estimated at 700 million US dollars.

Vietnam has a long coast line with low level coastal deltas which are highly vulnerable to sea level rise. Our agriculture as well as other economic activities depend much on weather and will be greatly affected by sea level rise.

We understand clearly the threats of climate change and its adverse impacts on the socio-economic activities and the environment of our country because it is not only the threats of the future but one of the very present. That is why our Government signed the Convention very early.

For a developing country like Vietnam, the most important task now is to enhance its economic development in order to alleviate poverty and backwardness, thus gradually raising the people's living standard and, narrowing the gap with the developed countries. In this process, however, we will have to use obsolete equipment and technologies with ineffective use of energy and high emission rates. While striving for the goals of sustainable development in the context of great difficulties caused by weak infrastructure, shortage of funds and outdated technology, we have to face with challenges caused by climate change.

In the face of numerous difficulties, Vietnam has tried its best to contribute to the common efforts of the world community in the protection of climate system. We have done and will strengthen our cooperation with all countries, international organizations in

this aspect. Since 1992, many programmes and projects on environment protection have been approved and given priority by our Government, of which the followings are important for climate protection :

- Country Programme on Population and Family Planning;
- Decision No. 327 on Restoring Forests and Alleviating Poverty in the Uplands. This programme has been implemented for several years and will be continued till the year 2000.
- The Programme “Enhancing Aforestation, Regreening Astelands and go forward to Stop Logging in Natural Forests”, the target of which is that 5 million hectares of forsts will be restored by the year 2000.

These programmes will certainly contribute much for the abatement of greehouse gasses (GHG) emission and strengthening of sinks. Moreover, we have promulgated the Law on Environment Protection, which defined that any new investment projects should comply with national environmental standards; formulated The GHG abatement strategy and the Country Programme to Impliment the UNFCCC in Vietnam.

Climate change is the common concern of the world and there should be concerted effective endeavours in managing and protecting measures and in materializing the commitments under the Convention.

In order to effectively impliment the strategy for GHG mitigation and protect the earth atmostphere, Vietnam as well as other developing countries needs the financial and technological assistance from Annex I countries to the UNFCCC and other international organizations as mentioned in the Convention.

Vietnam fully supports the position about the commitment of different countries to the targets of limitation and reduction of GHG emissions under the Berlin Mandate which is in accordance with the principle of UNFCCC on common but differentiated responsibilities. At the same time, the developing countries should receive enough financial provision and technological transfer to implement the Convention.

Mr. President.

The results of this conference are of special importance for the protection of our present and future generations in the face of the threats of climate change. Again we hope that with goodwill, we will join hands to cope with these challenges and secure the sustainable development for mankind.

Thank you.