

Viet Nam Statement
59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs
Special Session on UNGASS Preparations
14-16 March 2016

Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, I would like to extend my best wishes to Mr. Chairman and all delegates who attend the 59th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Special Segment on preparation for the special session of General Assembly on the world drug problem in 2016. I wish our session achieve great success, contributing to the global fight against drugs.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

Over the past years, being fully aware of the complexity and dangerous consequences of drugs on human health, society and national development, Vietnam's Government have been implementing a number of positive, holistic, balanced and integrated policies and measures in order to prevent and suppress drug-related threats.

The Government of Vietnam places prevention on top priority, of which public awareness raising play a critical role, since mobilize the consensus and active participation of the population to anti-drugs programs. We have established and improved the drug control machineries from central to local level; strengthened the law enforcement forces to prevent, suppress criminals; integrated the alternative development into national socio-economic development programs, hunger elimination and poverty reduction and social schemes; promoted the application of science and technology, strengthened the capacity of specialized forces, made the best use of government and social resources to drug control efforts.

Vietnam considers drug addiction a chronic disease. The addicts should be treated through diversified drug treatment models with the support of necessary

consulting services. Along with drug treatment, Vietnam has carried out harm reduction interventions for drug abusers through programs, projects given our social and economic background.

With the spirit of “diversifying and multi-lateralizing relationships”, “willing to be a trusted friend and partner”, Vietnam is always a responsible member of the United Nations, proactively integrating in international community, actively participating and implementing crime prevention and suppression programs in general and drug control programs in particular. Vietnam upholds the respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in internal affairs in solving drug problems. We believe in the leading role of Commission of Narcotic Drugs in the United Nations system in building global drug policies.

Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates,

Facing difficulties and challenges in drug prevention and suppression, Vietnam shares an ASEAN position “Zero-tolerance Approach against Drugs” and continues to pursue the permanent goal of a drug-free region and globe. It is necessary to balance the reduction of supply, demand and negative impacts, by both strengthened law enforcement and socio-economic measures to eliminate the root causes of illegal drug production, trafficking, transportation and usage.

Preventing and repelling globally drug crimes as well as minimizing its impacts on society require our stronger solidarity and responsibility, committing to implement synchronized and balancing measures of supply and demand reduction. With the effort from domestic power, Vietnamese’s Government is engaged to implement and suggest that UNODC as well as international community continue to support and mobilize more resources for effective global drug control, especially in South-East Asia and Pacific region; to assist Vietnam in conducting the campaigns and international programs of drug control; hoping that UNODC Country Office in Vietnam pushes up **the implementation of** Vietnam Country program for the period 2012 to 2017 as engaged.

Vietnam considers that the forthcoming UNGASS needs to be a forum of commitment of longterm drug control policy at global level and expects that the special segment will reach a concensus on drug control mesures in next period.

From our point of view, Vietnam have been actively contributing to preparation for and success of UNGASS.

I thank you for your attention!