

UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS

SIXTY-THIRD SESSION

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**STATEMENT BY LEUTERNENT - GENERAL PHAM VAN CAC
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Mr. Chairman,

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to extend the best wishes to you and all distinguished delegates attending the Sixty-third Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

Mr. Chairman,

1. Over the past years, the complex and expanding world drug problem has been causing serious challenges to all states. Drug problem is truly a dangerous threat to national economic development and social security. In addition, drug-related crimes also cause other types of crimes, such as terrorism financing, corruption and money laundering. Along with international integration and globalization, transnational drug trafficking has been increasingly complicated and unpredictable.

In this context, Viet Nam highly appreciates efforts of the international community in addressing and countering the world drug problem, including programme and activities of UN organizations, particularly the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Viet Nam reaffirms the significance of three United Nations Conventions on drugs control, the Political Declaration and Action Plan in 2009, the Ministerial Declaration in 2014, the 2016 UNGASS Outcome Document and the recent Ministerial Declaration adopted in 2019. They must be regarded as fundamental documents for making policy on global drugs issues.

Viet Nam fully supports the position of ASEAN and some members states on a zero-tolerance attitude towards drugs; being resolute against the legalization of drug use, striving for the realization of a drug-free ASEAN community; respecting the sovereignty of each country in choosing the optimal solutions which balances

supply and demand reduction, in line with each country's historical, political, economic, social and cultural situations.

Mr. Chairman,

2. In recent years, Viet Nam's Government has always directed all levels and branches to implement synchronous solutions including supply reduction, demand reduction in combination with reducing harms caused by drugs. In order to strengthen our legislation, Viet Nam took into account the development of drug crimes and amended the 2000 Law on Drug Control. We also adopted national policies to set up long-term goals for combating drug crimes, such as the National Strategy on Drug Control to 2020 and a vision until 2030; invested in projects under the Government's national program on drug prevention and suppression;

In law enforcement on drugs, Viet Nam has enhanced information exchange specifically and timely with countries in the region and the world via hotlines; cooperated to implement the high campaign on drug control with neighboring countries at the hot flash and risk areas; coordinate with other countries in conducting joint investigations to arrest transnational drug-related crimes and discover all of drug trafficking organizations too. We have also been implementing more propaganda and education activities to raise awareness on impacts of drugs, especially on the youths. With the support from social organizations and the people, the Government has been carrying out many treatment programs, helping drug addicts reintegrate into the community. On the basis of the Project on Reforming Drug Treatment in Viet Nam by 2020, we are striving to build a community-based drug treatment system. Schools and the media are also actively involved in mainstreaming effects of drugs in their lessons and TV programs.

Furthermore, Viet Nam has cooperated closely with regional and bordering states as well as the international community to address drug problem, participated actively in bilateral and multilateral mechanisms on drug control in the region and within the UN framework. Especially, last year Viet Nam accelerated the initiative to organize a Ministerial Meeting on Enhancing the Cooperation Effectiveness in Combating Transnational Drug Crimes with the participation of Ministerial level delegations from ASEAN members, Sub-Mekong region and the UNODC. This cooperation mechanism is to find out new risks and challenges as well as promptly respond to complicated and unpredictable development of drug crimes.

Mr. Chairman,

3. It is evident that in over the past 10 years, the Political Declaration and Action Plan 2009 had been the solid foundation for Member States in shaping and developing effective drug control policy. The Declaration was updated by the

Ministerial Declaration 2019 to confront with challenges and development of drug crimes in the new context. In order to further enhance the implementation of the 2019 Declaration on the basis of three international Conventions on drug prevention, we would like to share some recommendations as follows:

Firstly, Member States, UN agencies and international organizations should strengthen cooperation in carrying out comprehensive and holistic measures at the national, regional and international level; as well as balancing demand and supply reduction measures. Viet Nam emphasizes the importance of respecting sovereignty, territorial integrity and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of member states in addressing drug problem, in line with the UN fundamental documents on drug control.

Secondly, UN agencies and the international community continue paying attention and supporting to implement the Strategies, National Programs and Action Plan on drug control through cooperation projects on policy advices, improve the legal basis in accordance with International Drug Control Conventions and standards, strengthen capacity of functional staffs, promote propaganda programs to raise awareness on crime prevention, demand reduction and drug treatment.

Thirdly, regional drug control programs and cooperation frameworks should be formulated and designed based on taking into account current drug situation and financial resources. Those mechanisms should effectively assist to create close and cooperative relations among regional and international programmes as well as encourage bilateral cooperation among member states.

Mr. Chairman,

Viet Nam is committed to work closely with other countries in addressing and countering global drug issues. We also call on states, the UNODC and other international organizations to continue supporting Viet Nam in this regard.

On this occasion, I wish our Session success and make an important contribution to the global fight against drugs.

Thank you very much./.