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**Statement of the Delegation of Vietnam's Indigenous Peoples  
at the United Nations Conference on  
"Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples"**

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Mr. Chairman,  
Distinguished member states,  
Representatives of all indigenous peoples delegations,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of all the indigenous peoples of Vietnam present at this "Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" conference, we sincerely thank you for the opportunity to express our opinions concerning the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The opportunity is indeed too valuable to pass up, but unfortunately nothing seems to gain from this effort due to the impasse created by Vietnam, this great organization's member state, by not recognizing us as indigenous peoples. Thereby, the Declaration still has no affect on our people's lives, and Vietnam seems to have nothing to do with the Declaration. Under this unforeseen status, we decided to issue a "Press Release" instead, which will convey all the issues and demands for the country of Vietnam to look into and for the United Nations to intervene.

For the record, we have been living and raising our families in our own ancestral homelands for thousands of years. By that fact, and by common law, we are the rightful owners of our own lands. But now, the Vietnamese colonizers refuse us of that right and even classify us as "minorities" with a reverse history that we migrated to live in their land. By so doing, Vietnamese government may claim that there are no indigenous peoples in Vietnam. This very fact was confirmed by Vietnam Permanent Mission's speech addressed this session on July 14, 2010. However, Vietnam has endorsed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples along with other 144 member states, and is supposed to honor the endorsement. This contradictory action of Vietnam leaves us no choice but to believe that Vietnam tries to evade its responsibilities as specified by the Declaration. This action has been confirmed by fact that no translation of the Declaration into Vietnamese or major indigenous peoples' languages could be found in Vietnam. Therefore, our poor people still know nothing about the Declaration due to this governmental manipulation.

Historically, Vietnamese invaded and completely occupied Champa in 1832; in Cochinchina in 1949 and Central Highlands in 1955 by illegal population transfer. In addition, to our assessment, the Vietnam War was an international hoax created by Ho Chi Minh just to legalize the occupation of our lands.

Mr. Chairman,

We are now going back to square one until Vietnam recognizes us as indigenous peoples in order for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples to take effect and bring benefit to our unfortunate people as intended. Please advise us how to handle this situation and how to find an appropriate solution for millions of indigenous individuals that are about to be abolished by the dictatorial and manipulative regime of Vietnam.

Thank you for your attention and for passing on our matters to proper authority for consideration.