



REMARKS

BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

at the 3rd session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous People

(Geneva, 14/07/2010)

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you for being elected as Chairperson of the third session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of the Indigenous People and we believe that this session will reach successful outcome under your wise guidance.

Mr. President,

Vietnam is among countries that have voted in favour of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Given in Viet Nam there is no indigenous people, our support to this Declaration is based on its consistent content with Viet Nam's policy on ethnic groups issue and United Nations human rights treaties to that Viet Nam is a state party. We would like to stress once again our support to activities carried out by the United Nations and the Human Rights Council including the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous People. In this regard, we would like to share with you our policy on the nationality issue and achievements during its implementation, including the participation to making-decision process, as well as to correct wrong information and fabrications forged by some participants in this session.

Mr. President

Viet Nam is a united country with 54 ethnic groups of which 53 ethnic minorities, making up 13% of the total population. Every ethnic group has its own cultural identity, thus bringing about the diversity and richness in the united culture of Viet Nam. The State of Viet Nam attaches special importance to the policy of ensuring equality, unity and mutual assistance between and among ethnic groups, in order to equally protect and promote rights of all ethnic groups in all political, economic, cultural and social areas, which clearly stipulated in the Constitution and various law, in particular the right of ethnic minorities' people to participate in decision-making process at all levels. The Constitution of Viet Nam said that all Vietnamese citizens have the right to participate in the management of the state and society, and to stand for elections to the National

Assembly and People's Council at all levels. We would like to note that the current 12th National Assembly has 87 deputies from ethnic minorities, accounting for about 18 percent, which is higher than the ratio of 13 percent of ethnic minorities in the whole population. More and more ethnic minority people are taking over important position in the state authorities at central, provincial and commune levels.

The policy of the State of Viet Nam of guaranteeing the enjoyment of rights by ethnic minority people is also demonstrated by other figures: curricular for 8 ethnic minority languages, including Khmer have been officially introduced in ethnic minority primary and secondary schools in 25 provinces; the Vietnam Television and Radio Voice of Viet Nam broadcast programmes in 13 different ethnic minority languages with more than 4000 special programmes; 93,5% of the communes in the living areas of ethnic minorities have health care center and 95% of ethnic minority children have been vaccinated through national extended vaccination programmes.

Mr. President,

Like other ethnic minorities groups, the Khmers people in Viet Nam enjoy benefits from the policy of the State of Viet Nam to enhance the rights of ethnic minorities groups in all fields. We would like to inform that at present, there are 9 deputies in National Assembly, 42 deputies of the Provincial People's Council and 2247 members of local authorities are Khmer people. In addition, the number of Khmers teachers and students has doubled since 1991; moreover, 80% of Khmers households have multimedia entertainment and the poverty percentage in Khmer households has decreased from 40% in 2006 to 20 % in 2009.

Mr. President,

In the spirit of dialogue and constructiveness, we reaffirm our commitment to continually work together with the international community towards better promotion and protection of human rights as a common value of humankind, through successful implementation of our declarations and conventions in these fields, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People.

I thank you, Mr. President.