

PERMANENT MISSION
of the
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
to the United Nations Office
and Other International Organizations in Geneva



MISSION PERMANENTE
de la
REPUBLIQUE SOCIALISTE DU VIETNAM
auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies
et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

30, Chemin des Corbilllettes; 1218 Grand-Saconnex; Geneve
Tel: (41 22) 798 24 85 Fax: (41 22) 798 07 24 / 798 24 69

STATEMENT

**BY H.E.Mr. LE VAN BANG, DEPUTY MINISTER
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF VIETNAM**

AT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT

THE FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

(GENEVA, 20 JUNE 2006)

Check against delivery

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, allow me to extend our warm congratulation to Your Excellency, the First President of the Human rights Council and to other members of the Bureau. It is my confidence that under your able leadership, the First Session of the Human Rights Council will be crowned with great success.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council this year marks a historic moment and a new beginning for our Organizations. With the upgraded status from an organ of the ECOSOC to a body of the General Assembly, the world community expects that human rights will be further protected and promoted in a comprehensive manner. The effective implementation of this mechanism will require an unprecedented level of balance, efficiency and good faith by member states. We believe that the newly elected 47 members of the Council will begin without delay to fulfill its mandate to promote and protect human rights for all. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the first members of the Human Rights Council on their election.

Mr. President,

The Commission on Human Rights has gone through a proud history for six decades. The Commission gave birth to the famous Universal Declaration of Human Rights and many other international human rights laws. The Commission deserves our deep respect for its commendable advancement of human rights. We must learn from its achievements as well as its past mistakes if we want the new Council to be a successful organ in the UN. Vietnam has more than once stated at this forum that the former Commission was too politicized, and emphasized too much on civil and political rights, while failing to pay sufficient attention to economic, cultural, social and development rights. In many instances, the Commission had been abused by some countries and NGOs as the forum to name and shame; put pressure on developing and poor countries. We hope that the new Council will make a fresh change and introduce a new culture of cooperation and mutual understanding in the field of promotion and protection of human rights. We have to make sure that the past practices of selectivity, double standards and excessive politicization will not be repeated at the Council. We have to work hard to make sure that the Council will be more cohesive and effective; that the new Council will not be the forum only for the strong and the rich to condemn the poor and powerless. The Council should promote objectivity, impartiality and non-selectivity in all spheres of its work. The Council will be the forum to equally address

problems relating not only to political and civil rights but also to social, economic and cultural rights and the right to development as well. To make those goals achievable, it is important that we all have to build the Council a forum for increased cooperation among UN members, individually and collectively, a forum where cooperation and dialogue are based on mutual trust and understandings, respect for independence and sovereignty.

Mr. President,

Vietnam has been fighting for a spot under the sun for its people and has a long tradition of promoting and protecting human rights. The State of Vietnam has always viewed the people as both the goal and driving force of the national construction. The people therefore always lie in the center of economic and social policies and the promotion and protection of human rights are an essential factor for sustainable development and successful implementation of national industrialization and modernization. At the Five-year review of the implementation of the UN millennium goals, Vietnam was among the first countries to be praised of successfully carrying out these UN lofty goals.

Vietnam is of the view that in a world of increasing diversity, approaches to human rights issues should harmoniously combine common standards and principles of international law with specific historical, political, economic and social conditions as well as cultural and religious values, beliefs and customs of each country and region. Vietnam supports efforts to strengthen international human rights cooperation, both bilateral and multilateral, on the basis of equal, constructive, mutual-respect and understanding for the common goal of promoting and protecting human rights.

We, therefore, attach great importance to the work of the Human Rights Council and will strive to make a constructive contribution to its deliberation with a strong confidence that the Human rights Council will play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights, among them are human dignity, justice, compassion, and non-discrimination around the world.

I thank you for your attention./.