

COUNTRY STATEMENT

**Presented at the Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster
Risk Reduction**

16th – 19th June 2009, Geneva, Swiss

VIETNAM DELEGATION

Mr. Chairman

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

First of all, we would like to convey our Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung's apology to the Global Platform for not being able to attend this important event because of the Government workload. He and the people of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, however, would like to take this opportunity to extend to you Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, a very warm regard and best wishes for the success of this remarkable meeting.

Secondly, may I on behalf of my delegation extend to you Mr. Chairman our sincere gratitude for the very warm welcome and the splendid facilities that we have enjoyed since our arrival in Geneva, this beautiful and peaceful City of Swiss.

May I also extend our sincere thanks to all United Nation member countries and the various organisations of the United Nations System for the assistance in increasing resilience of disaster-vulnerable communities in Vietnam.

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Since the last few years, occurrences of natural disasters have been more severe over the world, which caused heavy damages to human life. Natural disasters had claimed thousands of people and affected millions of human beings. Recently, in 2008 there were certain violent disasters occurring in the region and the world. For instance, the Avian influenza has affected over the Asia countries, the huge damaged Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar and the Earthquake seriously happened in Wenchuan province of China, and now the influenza A (H1N1) has been affecting over the American countries, to Europe and start knocking the door of ASIA countries, etcetera.

Vietnam is warned one of five countries that are most impacted by climate change in the world. Practically, since the last few years, Vietnam has been affected by disasters; floods and storms occurred abnormally and higher sea water level.

We are facing with the increase of challenges of disasters and climate change, which are in both urgent and long time. Disasters are unavoidable, but it needs our full endeavors in order to limit the risks and impacts of disaster. The holistic approach and drastic directions of State together with full community participation

has been identified as the most effective solution; and living harmoniously with nature would contribute significantly to disaster risk reduction.

Recognizing the challenges and having committed to the global and regional conventions such as Hyogo Framework for Action, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response..., our Prime Minister approved and launched two important strategic documents; one is the *“National strategy for disaster risk prevention, response and mitigation to 2020”* and other is the *“National target Program for Climate Change Adaptation”* with their goals to make community safe from disaster and climate change and to ensure the sustainable development of the country by mobilizing all available recourses. Following up those strategic documents implementation, a National Action Plan is now being developed based on all single action plan of various ministries and provinces in the country. This comprehensive National Action Plan consists of a various programme, such as inter-alia environmental program, water resources management, agriculture and land use planning, health issues, development planning, poverty alleviation and community base disaster risk management, etcetera.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman, may I quote a phrase stated in the “UN Human Development Report 2007/2008” that “No one country can win the battle against climate change acting alone. Collective action is not an option but an imperative”.

Once again, congratulate your Committee and all the countries, organizations of the important Second Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction which I hope will come out with clear and doable actions for the successfully continuation of the Hyogo Framework for Action implementation in the Asian region particularly and in the world generally.

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