**VIETNAM’S COUNTRY STATEMENT**

At the Global Forum for Disaster Risks Reduction

Geneva, Switzerland (19 - 24 May 2013)

***Dear Chairman,***

***Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Vietnam is the country that annually has to face with many types of disasters such as storms, floods, flash floodings, landslides, drought, forest fires, etc. During the past 10 years, natural disasters have averagely made more than 400 people reported dead and missing each year, and caused economic losses estimated at hundreds of millions of US dollars.

To prevent and mitigate disasters and to adapt to climate change, during the past years, the Government of Vietnam has taken a number of synchronized structural and non-structural measures, including investment promotion, institutional consolidation, and integrated mobilization of resources for disaster prevention and reduction. At the present, the draft Law on Natural Disaster Prevention and Control is being developed and will be submitted to the National Assembly at its session to be held in May 2013.

The Government of Vietnam also approved the National Strategy for Natural Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and the Action Plan until 2020; the National Target Programme and Strategy for Response to Climate change; the National Plan for Climate Change. Based on these national strategies and framework plans, different sectors and provinces have prepared their workplans and carry out implementation arrangements.

Regarding mechanisms and policies to support natural disaster reduction, the Government and the provinces have developed and issued relevant legal documents including consolidation of steering committees on flood and storm control, search and rescue; development of support policies for disaster prone areas, post disaster support policies, etc.

***Dear Chairman,***

***Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

Vietnam strongly commits and will take concrete actions at both central and provincial levels for prevention and mitigation of natural disasters and response to climate change. National and international resources have been mobilized as much as possible and prioritized for successful implementation of the objectives specified in National Strategies on Climate Change, and on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

Vietnam is implementing the National Programme on Public Awareness Raising on Community-based Disaster Risks Management until 2020 targeting 6,000 communes highly protentially affected by disaster risks. So far, several key staff working in the disaster reduction from all provinces and cities of Vietnam have been given with training and raising awareness.

Vietnam is gradually strengthening the technical knowledge, information management and sharing technologies for better forecasting, warning, development study and risk assessment of disasters and climate. During the past two years, Vietnam has been gradually approaching these technologies for comprehensive disaster risk assessments, looking for appropriate techniques and technologies in collaboration with national and international research institutes to clearly identify risks and risk trends on natural disasters in the coming years.

Mobilising the participation of the people, mass organizations and social institutions has been paid special attention during the implementation of these strategies, actively contributing to improved effective use of resources supported by the government, the people and development assistance programmes. With its efforts in the disaster risks reduction, Vietnam is willing to share this experience with the international community.

As mentioned above, the government and the people of Vietnam, with support of the international community, have continued those efforts for prevention and mitigation of natural disasters. As a result, human losses caused by natural disasters in the period 2008-2012 have decreased significantly compared with those 5 years ago, with the reduction by 8% for fatalities and missing, and 17% for injuries.

***Dear Chairman,***

***Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,***

 Vietnam is promoting the national, regional and international cooperation to strengthen country capacity and responsibilities and linkages among related stakeholders.

###  The Government of Vietnam participated in regional and global commitments such as ratification of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and Kyoto Protocol; Hyogo Framework for Action; ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response … In 2013, Vietnam is appointed to chair the ASEAN Committee on disaster Management (ACDM), and also to host the ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (COP2); Vietnam’s simulation exercise with ASEAN countries on disaster response(ARDEX13) in order to strengthen preparedness and post disaster support in ASEAN community. At the regional level, Vietnam is collaborating with Asia-Pacific Economies (APEC) to carry out different contents related to disaster reduction such as promotion of business enterprises to prepare their business continuity plans (BCP) for disaster response, collaborative sea rescues and community-based disaster risks management;

 We hope that implemented and ongoing activities and experiences from Vietnam will be useful contributions to the international community. Vietnam will continue to share and learn experiences from other member countries in promoting disaster risk reduction.

Thank you very much for your attention.