



**WORLD PEACE COUNCIL
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Statement of the World Peace Council (WPC) regarding the Universal Periodical Review of Human Rights in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

To the attention of the UN High Commssioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)

To whom it may concern

The WPC supports the just causes of the peoples and their right to define and determine their fortunes since its foundation in 1949. Throughtout the history of the Vietnamese people in the 20th century, we have witnessed the consecutive colonial and aggresive invasion and occupation of Vietnam by foreign imperialist forces and the struggle of the people of Viet Nam for its liberation and national sovereignty, based on the democratic wishes of its people and reflected in the constitutions of the SR Vietnam.

The defense of the Human Rights is a basic principle of the WPC, part of its character and constitution. As an International Non-governmental Organisation with Consultative status at the UN, accredited to the Human Right Council in Geneva we want to stress on the following facts and aspects:

The 1992 Constitution (amended in 2001) ensures people's equal rights in all political, economic, social areas as well as before the law; the right to freedom of religion and belief; the right to freedom of movement and residence within Viet Nam; the right to complain and denounce; right to work, study and enjoy health care... regardless of their sex, social status, belief, religion. The improvement of the legal system on human rights, civil rights was harmoniously and implemented through programs on the establishment of laws and ordinances as well as policies toward the implementation of these legal documents.

We explicitly want to mention in this context the Amended Labour Code (2012), Amended and supplemented Law on Lawyers (2012), Amended Law on Publication (2012).

With the establishment of numerous new practical contents, the 1992 Constitution and such legal documents as Law on People's health protection (1989), 1994 Labour Code (amended in 2002 and 2006), 1998 Law on Education (amended in 2005), 2003 Law on Land, 2006 Law on Social Insurance, 2006 Law on HIV/AIDS prevention and control, etc, have created a transparent and sufficient legal corridor in

realizing and exercising economic, cultural and social rights of the people. The Vietnamese legal system in this field has met international standards, creating a solid foundation for a comprehensive renovation of the country.

The State of Viet Nam attaches importance to the guarantee of the right to State and society management directly and indirectly through the selection of their representatives. Viet Nam's very high election turnout at the elections for the XIII National Assembly in May 2011 shows that the people are very well aware of their right and the role of the National Assembly in exercising the right to state and society management of the people.

The right to petition and complain of the people is respected and protected. The handling of people's petitions and complaints has improved a great deal. From 2008 to 2011, the ratio of responses to petitions and complaints by administrative agencies reached 84%. The law also provides for the compensation of material and mental losses of petitioners.

Viet Nam is a multi-religion country with all the major religions in the world (Buddhism, Catholic, Protestant, Muslim...); the country has the second biggest Catholic community in Southeast-Asia. 95% of all the people have belief (including 22.3 million being followers of religions, accounting for 1/5 of the population); there are 25 thousand of worshipping places.

The right to freedom of press and information of the Vietnamese people has been reflected through the fast and diverse development of the mass media. By 2012, there are about 786 print newspapers (compared to 676 in 2009), 1016 publications (compared to 1003 in 2011), 18,000 registered journalists, 68 radio and television stations at the national and provincial level, 01 national news agency, 300 e-news papers and thousands of e-portals on the internet. The number of registered social networks was 227. All important international news networks are based in Hanoi and are operating from there.

The democratic nature and transparency of the State is strengthened through the critiques from the press, media and feedbacks of all the people. Viet Nam's press and media have become a forum for exchanges regarding the supervision of the State's activities, thus contributing greatly to the fight against corruption and wrongdoings in Viet Nam.

Viet Nam is party of almost all core international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR); the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR); International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Viet Nam is the second country in the world and the first in Asia to sign the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The country has also ratified 17 conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO), including those related to gender equality, rights of the child... Viet Nam signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) on 2008. In the process of ratification of the CRPD, Viet Nam has promulgated the Law on Persons with Disabilities on 2010. In 2012, Viet Nam has acceded to the Convention against

Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, the Convention No.122 on Employment Policy of the ILO.

At the regional level, Viet Nam and other ASEAN members established the ASEAN Intergovernmental Committee on Human Rights (AICHR), the ASEAN Committee on the Protection and Promotion of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC). Viet Nam also worked as Chair of ACWC on 2010. Right after its establishment, AICHR has negotiated the ASEAN Declaration on Human Rights which was submitted to and adopted by the 21th ASEAN Summit on November 2012. Viet Nam actively participates to the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative Against Trafficking (COMMIT), strictly coordinates with UN agencies such as UNICEF, UNODC, IOM, UNIAP, WV and signs bilateral agreements with Laos, Cambodia, China, Malaysia... in order to strengthen the effectiveness of activities combating human trafficking in the region.

Last but not least we want to emphasize on the huge efforts Viet Nam is doing for the victims of the toxic “Agent Orange” which was used by the USA against the Vietnamese people during the war and which is resulting till today in health consequences for the new generations of newborns and children. The state of Viet Nam is dealing with the consequences of crimes against its people, by taking care of the human and social rights of the victims and their families, without giving up the legal struggle for compensation of the victims at US courts.

In conclusion the WPC strongly recommends the positive approval of the achievements and records of Viet Nam in the field of Human Rights at the UPR in Geneva. Viet Nam is fulfilling the international standards at highest rank.

On behalf of the Secretariat of WPC

Athens, 15th June 2013



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