

Statement of the Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation
at the 12th HRC Session
Geneva, 24 September 2009

1

Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am speaking on behalf of the Vietnam Peace and Development Foundation. In the UPR process, we highly appreciate the Government of Viet Nam for promoting NGO's participation and contribution, right from the start, sharing information, listening to our suggestions and comments.

My organization is working at the grassroots level in the fields of peace and development, therefore, we have opportunities to listen to and understand people's opinion. We are not claiming to represent all the Vietnamese, we just want to express our opinion which I am sure shared by many people in Vietnam.

Looking at the overall situation in Vietnam, we can say certainly that despite many challenges faced, Vietnamese people today are enjoying the best ever period of life in the latest hundreds years of our history. This is seen not only in the general improvement of people's living conditions, in poverty reduction, but also in other fields, such as women empowerment, and caring for children, for people with disabilities, for ethnic minorities and very active religious development. The process of building a law-governed State creates better and better conditions for people to participate in the political life of the country. And these are not only assessments of our own, but also of many independent and objective foreign observers. For example, according to the Gallup surveys, the index of optimism of the Vietnamese ranks among the first in the world during recent years. That is true reflection on how Vietnamese people see their society today.

We know that our society is still far from being perfect, and there are still a lot of things to be done. However, that is the political social system, the media structure which serve the people's interests best and suitable for our situation. We hope you understand and respect rights of our people to build our society in a way that is best for us.

Thank you for your attention.