

1. ACWF follows closely the third UPR on Vietnam's human rights by the UN Human Rights Council in January, 2019. We observe that in recent years Vietnamese government has made great efforts in promoting and protecting human rights, continuously advancing equal development rights and other rights for the disabled, women, children, poor and ethnic minorities, and made remarkable achievements in safeguarding women's legitimate rights and gender equality.

2. Vietnam attaches importance to gender equality and protection of women's rights and constantly improve relevant laws and regulations. For instance, the Law on Gender Equality promotes equality between men and women in all fields and stipulates gender mainstreaming to be reflected in every legal document. The Labor Code regulates equal work for equal pay. The Law on Education provides equal opportunities of learning regardless of gender. The Law on Election of Deputies to the National Assembly and People's Council requires at least 35% of candidates for Deputies to the National Assembly and Deputies to the People's Councils are women. The Law on Domestic Violence Prevention protects legitimate rights of women victims of domestic violence. The promulgation and implementation of a series of laws and regulations provide solid foundation for Vietnamese women's equal enjoyment of all human rights and full participation in social development.

3. Vietnam emphasizes on developing policies and

programs to promote gender equality. The 2011-2020 National Strategy on Gender Equality is being implemented effectively. Gender stereotypes and discrimination against women in the Vietnamese society has lessened compared with the previous review.

4. In political sphere, remarkable achievements have been made in women's participation in political affairs, which helps to safeguard and represent women's rights and interests and enable women to better exercise their rights of participation and decision-making. Women hold many key positions in the State and society, including Vice President, the Chairwoman and the First Vice-Chairwoman of the National Assembly, Chairwomen of the Committees of the National Assembly and so on. The 14th National Assembly has for the first time its Chairwoman and the largest number of female Deputies to the National Assembly , which is 38.79% of the total. By December 2016, there are 12 women ministers in the government, accounting for 40%.

5. In the field of employment, Vietnam has paid attention to women's participation in the labor market and endeavors to empower women to get employed or start their own business. The proportion of employed women was 48% in Vietnam in 2017. 31.4% of entrepreneurs are women. The proportion of women in management also increased. With support of government, Vietnam Women's Union has established more

than 6,500 cooperative economic groups for women, worked with vocational training institutions to provide trainings targeted at women, supported women-led SMEs and helped women get out of poverty.

6. In recent years, the government has strengthened advocacy of gender equality and intensified fight against and punishment of gender-based violence and crimes. In 2016, Vietnam organized the Month of Action for Gender Equality and Gender-based Violence Prevention and Fighting nationwide. Marriage consultation centers and safe houses were built and health services were provided to victims of domestic violence. Women in marriage are protected by law against early marriage, forced marriage and domestic violence.

7. We also notice that despite the rapid growth of national economy, women still face some obstacles and challenges in Vietnam. Occupational segregation and gender pay gap still exist. Women's income and social security level in informal sectors are comparatively low. Rural women have less accesses to education and health services. Male preference still occurs in some areas.

8. We suggest Vietnam continue its work to protect women's legitimate rights, further invest in and support women's development, narrow gender pay gap, raise poor women's income, improve education and health services for

rural women, promote gender mainstreaming and help women in Vietnam to have equal rights with other citizens in all fields to realize sustainable development.