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AS WRITTEN

Statement by Professor Mai Ky,
Minister and Chairman of the National Committee
for Population and family Planning of Vietnam
Head of the Vietnamese Delegation
at the International Conference on Population and Development
September 5-13,1994 - Cairo, Egypt.

His Excellency the President

Respected Delegation,

Ladies and Gentleman

Allow me on behalf Of the Vietnamese Delegation to extend to His
Excellency the president, respected delegates, ladies and gentlemen our
warmest greetings and the wish for a great success Of the International
Conference on Population and Development,

We would like to express our sincere thanks to the Organizing committee of the Conference for having made great efforts so that representatives Of nations and countries all over the world are able to gather here to discuss important issues which are vital not only for our generation but also for future ones.

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt for its hospitality and thoughtful arrangements Of this high Level worldwide meeting on population and development.

His Excellency the President,
Ladies and Gentlemen

The Independence proclamation of our Republic State lays emphasis on everyone' s right to live in equality, freedom and happiness Freedom and happiness of humankind are not merely reflected in liberation from all forms of exploitation and oppression but also in having individual rights to make responsible choice on which way to materialize their potentiality, including the rights on reproductive health, an insurance Of a state Of complicate physical & mental well-being.

The Population programme of Vietnam has been established and implemented on this basis. In 1961, the article No 1 Of the first resolution on this issue by our Government stated: “ for the health Of the mother, for the happiness and harmony of the family and for the well bringing up of the child, proper guidance should be given to people's birth delivery Although our population Programme has been introduced and conducted in a relatively early Stage the Programme has only

achieved modest results. The population of Vietnam had been doubled in 25 years from 1960 to 1985. The average number of children per woman at the reproductive age at present is still about 3.7 and the natural population growth rate is 2.2%. This is truly an obstacle to the development of the country.

After having analyzed the reasons that have caused the less successful implementation of our programme in recent years the leading Party and Government of Vietnam have issued a number of official documents on population policies and strategies and on the organizational mechanism of the National Committee for Population and family planning in order to readjust the coordination and monitoring of the programme thus making population factor to become a positive contribution to the overall development of the country.

Initially we have achieved the followings:

1. Strengthening the political commitment to the programme from the leaders of the nation and from authorities at all levels throughout the country. In the Vietnam Constitution, the political commitment is expressed in terms of responsibility and obligation of every citizen on the care for mothers and children and on implementation of population programme. This political commitment is also constituted by giving ever increasing investments and resources to the Population programme. If the previous investments from the State budget were so small and noteworthy of mentioning recently such investments have increased 8 times in 1994 as compared to 1992 with the 1994 budget allocation of VND 200 billion which is equivalent to approximately USD 20 million

2. With such strong political commitment the involvement in the programme of various social strata has been increased thus making this

programme initially promoted by the state to become nationwide for the people and undertaken by the people. The National Committee for population and family planning has been assigned by the Government to coordinate the programme with the participation from a number of concerned institutions such as: Ministries of Health, Culture and Information labour Education etc. and the mass organizations: Women Union Youth Union Peasants Union Trade Union and Vietnam family planning Association etc.

3. One of the effective measures of monitoring such multi - sectoral programme with the participation of a large number of member institutions is the setting up of targeted programmes i.e. to strengthen managerial capacity improve the effectiveness of family planning services and of IEC activities.

We are conscious that population and family planning work can only be successfully implemented when it is paid due attention and focused at the grassroots level. It is therefore that a network of full-time workers and voluntary collaborators is now being formed at hamlet and communal level and will have been complicated throughout the country in 1975.

4. In the population programme Vietnam IEC activities are considered a leading factor to increase people's awareness and change their reproductive behavior thus forming a large team of well - informed collaborators who voluntarily carry out family Planning activities.

In a country with such young population as Vietnam population education is considered an urgent and important measure with a view to achieve long - term strategic goal.

5. Vietnam does not consider abortion as a family planning method. Yet family planning reduces the number of abortions. However in case of failure in using family planning method or unwanted pregnancy it is considered that women in such cases can receive safe abortion with no difficulties. Abortion is only allowed to be made in those health bases with well - trained physicians in order to minimize its complication and side -effects for the assurance of mothers health thus creating good conditions for them to enjoy their reproductive rights. To reduce the number of abortion cases we strengthen IEC activities improve family planning services and increase men's participation.

6. To implement population programme in conditions of a less developed economy the allocated resources Of our country is not sufficient. So we do need and highly appreciate bilateral and multilateral assistances.

From this forum on behalf of the Vietnamese Government and people I would to express our sincere the international. organizations governments and non-governmental organizations for their assistance given to Vietnam in terms Of financial resources and exchanges Of experiences. We particularly thank the United Nations and the UN fund for population which have given great assistance to our Population programme for the past more than a decade.

We respect mutual cooperation's among developing countries especially cooperation's among countries in the region.

We support the proposal on increasing the share of funding in terms of ODA from developing countries for population programmes in developing countries.

Our philosophy is to logically integrate domestic resources and international assistance thus ensuring the target- matched and effective use of such assistance through projects which are well identified formulated and smoothly managed by both the recipient and the donor.

His Excellency the President.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

The Government of Vietnam is deeply conscios of the close link between population and development . considering population work as an integral and important component of the national development strategy and as a fundamental facto to improve quality Of life for every individual every family and the entire society

Together with the international community we with our high political commitment, are determined to positively implement the objectives and goals Of the programme of Action of this Conference in order to create pre-conditions for population stabilization and for long - term sustainable development of the world over.

May I wish for the success of the conference

Thank you for your listening