

Peacekeeping Operations Remarks by

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*Mr. Chairman!*

*Distinguished guests!*

*Ladies and gentlemen!*

Now I would like to talk on several points of view of Vietnam about peacekeeping operations.

Peace is the ultimate goal of the mankind, and noble aim of peacekeeping is none other than to bring about a peaceful and happy life to all nations. Nowadays, we live in a period when the main trend of peace, cooperation for mutual development prevails, but local wars, armed conflicts among countries or within a country still occur because of different reasons. That's why, the demand for peacekeeping operations under the United Nations' banner is ever increasing, and the peacekeeping operations have been undertaken in many places in the world.

The UN Charter has not clearly defined the peacekeeping concept yet, but originating from reality, we think that peacekeeping operation is diversified co-ordination of civilian and military activities by various countries and international organizations (of which the UN is the highest body) in order to make peace in areas of conflict, resolve disputes and differences between conflicting parties through peaceful means and only by peaceful means.

UN operations in peacekeeping so far have brought valuable lessons in all aspects, such as purpose,

organisation, legal framework, operational principle, training, and equipment.

As a country that experienced decades of war, none better than anyone, Vietnam deeply understand the value of peace and our responsibility of preserving the region and world peace. This indicate clearly in our foreign policy of openness, multilateralization, diversification, ready to be a friend and trusted partner of all countries for peace, cooperation and development as well as in our defence policy characterized by the nature of peace and self-defence.

Vietnam always highly appreciates the role of the UN in international peace and security maintenance. Vietnam shares views of the Non-Aligned countries and most of the member countries of the UN on guiding principles of peacekeeping operations. Planning and implementing of peacekeeping operations must be agreed upon by the concerned parties and placed under the UN united and centralized co-ordination.

Peacekeeping operations are varied in forms but must fully abide by such principles as respect for independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity; non-interference in others' internal affairs as well as ensure impartiality and neutrality, and non one-sidedness or imposition of external views; avoidance of being exploited for the sake of own interests of some countries. The main principle of peacekeeping operation is: "peace-making", not "peace-enforcement".

Peacekeeping operations cannot replace agreements of concerned parties or political solutions to conflicts; on the basis of agreements of concerned parties, peacekeeping operations should support and create a peaceful and favourable environment for negotiations to find a fair and just solution.

Reality proves that only in compliance with and observance of the UN principles and the above-mentioned terms, peacekeeping operations can actively contribute to supporting concerned parties to solve

conflicts for regional and international peace and security.

As a member of the UN, Vietnam has always tries its best to fulfill its obligations. Vietnam has continuously contributed funds to peacekeeping operations since 1996. Vietnam also participated in election monitoring (in Algeria in 1997, in Cambodia in 1998 and 2003), attended many peacekeeping seminars held in many countries, sent officers to take part in training courses and workshops in peacekeeping.

Vietnam has been actively undertaking research surveys, exchanges of and learning from experience from other countries in the UN peacekeeping operations in order to consider the form and extent of participation in accordance with its capability on the basis of compliance with Vietnam's Constitution, rules and the UN Charter. Furthermore, we need multi-faceted preparations, including psychology, awareness, consensus, legislation, material basis, training, equipment, command, communication, language. Vietnam will take part in the UN peacekeeping operations when the conditions permit and at a proper time.

*Once again I wish this Conference a good success!*

*Thank you for your kind attention!*

