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STATEMENT

by H.E. Mr. PHAM BINH MINH

Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

**at the Conference on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the
Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT)**

New York – Friday, 23rd September 2011

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Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to warmly congratulate you on your election as the President of this important meeting. We are strongly convinced that, under your able leadership, the meeting will arrive at a successful outcome. We also wish to commend the work of the Preparatory Committee for the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) in garnering the support for the Treaty.

We are firmly committed to working with all delegations to bring this Conference to a fine outcome.

Mr. President,

It is Viet Nam's consistent policy to support and promote general and complete disarmament, with top priority given to nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation. Viet Nam has been trying its best to contribute to international efforts towards such noble goal and has acceded to all major related international treaties. It is our hope that the CTBT, once brought into force, would significantly strengthen our existing mechanisms in our striving for a nuclear-free world. Therefore, Viet Nam was among the first to sign the CTBT in 1996 and ratified it in 2006. At the national level, we have made continued efforts to prepare for the implementation of CTBT upon its entry into force. We also reaffirm and support for the legitimate rights of nations to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Mr President,

Our conference commences at an important juncture, when there is renewed expectation on addressing various challenges to international security, including nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation. During past years, we have witnessed various bilateral and multilateral plans calling for actions to reduce nuclear dangers. There is indeed a new hope for a nuclear weapons free world. Yet, challenges are enormous and far from over.

The threats posed by nuclear weapons and nuclear proliferation continue to manifest themselves over the years and despite many efforts, we are still facing serious difficulties in reaching consensus on the core issues of disarmament and non-proliferation negotiating agenda. We believe that pending the CTBT's entry into force, all States should maintain a moratorium on nuclear-weapon-test explosions or any other nuclear explosions, and refrain from acts that would undermine the objectives and purposes of this Treaty.

Mr. President,

Our joint effort with regards to the CTBT should be put in a concerted endeavour for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the promotion of the peaceful use of nuclear energy. To that end, we should do our utmost to facilitate an international environment of peace and security that is conducive to international disarmament. In such environment, respect for international law and the UN Charter and peaceful settlement of disputes should be the commanding norms. In that atmosphere, progress in making effective an international ban on nuclear testing should go in parallel with progress in other core issues on the disarmament agenda, with priorities given to the prevention of nuclear war, nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and the expansion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

With that in mind, Viet Nam over the years has unrelentingly promoted the policy of peace and disarmament. We have been a party to all major international instruments for the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, including the CTBT, NPT, BWC and CWC. We have also been fulfilling our obligations under relevant UN mechanisms, especially those set up by the UN Security Council, and paid constant attention to issues related to nuclear security and safety. Together with ASEAN fellow countries, Viet Nam is working hard to promote the Treaty on Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapons Free Zone. We take this opportunity to call on states, especially nuclear weapons states, to sign and ratify the protocol annexed to the Treaty.

Mr President,

In conclusion, my Delegation wishes to reiterate Viet Nam's commitment to work with the international community toward a world free from all weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons in particular, through, *inter alia*, achieving universal adherence to the CTBT, thus making further contributions to strengthening world peace and security.

I thank you, Mr. President!