

STATEMENT

by

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THE S.R OF VIETNAM**

**at the High-Level Conference on World Food Security:
the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy**

(Rome, 3-5 June 2008)

Mr. Chairman

Dr. Jacques Diouf, FAO Director-General

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to express our congratulations to you, Mr. Chairman for your election as Chairperson of this High-Level Conference on World Food Security: the Challenges of Climate Change and Bioenergy. I strongly believe that under your leadership, our session will reap fruitful results.

Distinguished delegates,

In the early years of the 21st century, mankind has to face new challenges in relation to food security, natural disasters, disease outbreaks, climate change... which requires our common efforts to overcome. Recently, the world is experiencing a dramatic increase in food prices, highest level in nearly 30 years. The food prices are likely to remain high in the next few years.

Over many decades, FAO has always played the leading role in coming up with proposals, initiatives to tackle global issues on food and agriculture. Its Initiative on Soaring Food Prices assists the most affected countries in an effort to increase local food supplies in the upcoming agriculture seasons and prevent crises. Developing countries have always found proactive support from FAO politically and technically with a view of increasing productivity, outcome and efficiency from agricultural, forestry and fisheries production, preventing effectively diseases on livestock and crops. Agriculture development, ensuring food security are the vital basis for social and political order, making ground for the socio-economic development in every country.

As you are all aware, from being a net importer of rice 20 years ago, Vietnam is now the second largest exporter of rice. Not just rice, we are also large exporter of many agricultural produce such as coffee, pepper, fishery and forestry products. The total value of agricultural export was USD 13 billion in 2007. This has been achieved by extensively and intensively reforming the agricultural sector, as part of the national economic reform. The reform includes

long-term land tenure for farmers, market-oriented agricultural production, investment in irrigation, research and development, provision of credits to farmers.

It has been a difficult time for Vietnam agriculture because of rising sea level, natural disasters and diseases: the worst drought faced in 50 years, typhoons and floods at their record height in 10 years, reducing agricultural land, avian influenza, swine disease (PRRS-Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome). Nonetheless, Vietnam agriculture has been able to maintain the general growth of agro-forestry-fisheries at 4-5% annually, strengthening food security.

In the current situation of soaring food prices and inflation worldwide, the Declaration on “World Food Security and Required Actions” will be the strong political will at the highest level and firm commitment from the international community to prevent food crises and to ensure in a sustainable way the food security of a rapidly growing population. With the support from international organizations, non-governmental organizations and counterparts in other countries, Vietnam will put its best efforts in implementing programmes of poverty reduction, agriculture and rural modernization, to contribute to the achievement of our national objectives, as well as the goals set out by the FAO.

Vietnam wishes to participate in the world’s poverty reduction programme and is ready to share its lessons and experience with every country, especially the African countries. In recent times, Vietnam has been strongly involved in technology transfer and technical cooperation under the frame work of the South-South cooperation programme. One of the major difficulties however is the financial constraint. We therefore call for third party to be involved in our cooperation with Africa. Organisations such as FAO and developed countries such as Japan, South Africa, France etc... will make valuable contribution to food security in Africa by providing financial support besides technical support. Vietnam will continue to take part by providing qualified agricultural experts in cooperation projects.

Distinguished delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Delegation from Vietnam, to thank the FAO, especially the recent emergency aid programmes on avian influenza and swine disease. Our sincere thanks also go to other international organizations and the donor community who have supported and extended precious assistance to Vietnamese agriculture and rural development.

Thank you for your attention./.