



Statement of H.E. Mr. DUONG Chi Dung
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam
at the 70th Annual Plenary Session of the Executive Committee of the High
Commissioner's Programme (ExCom)
(October 10, 2019)

Mr. Chairman,

Mr. High Commissioner for Refugees,

Excellencies and distinguished delegates,

Viet Nam takes note of the High Commissioner's statement and appreciate the High Commissioner's commitment on stepping up efforts in reducing statelessness. We reaffirms that Viet Nam will continue to proactively address and step-by-step end statelessness in Viet Nam

Mr. Chairman,

Due to having a long border line and enduring four wars within one century, spontaneous migration in Viet Nam is a historical issue, which mainly occurs in border provinces of Viet Nam. According to the statistics, by late 2018, there were **34,110** stateless persons and persons of underdetermined nationality.

With full awareness of the significance and importance of the right to a nationality, Viet Nam recognizes, respects and protects the right to a nationality as one of the basic human rights. During 2009-8/2019, Viet Nam has addressed nationality issues and issued personal papers to **10,202** people through the following methods: (i) naturalization procedures; (ii) birth registration and determination of nationality for children; (iii) issuance of Certificate on Vietnamese nationality; and (iv) issuance of Permanent Resident Permit for eligible migrants residing in Viet Nam in accordance with the laws.

In recent period, Viet Nam also carried out many activities to strengthen our efforts to address statelessness in Viet Nam. These include: (i) improve and strengthen implementing of policies, laws on nationality towards facilitating eligible stateless persons residing in Viet Nam in their naturalization applications for the Vietnamese nationality; (ii) enhance awareness, understanding of nationality laws and strengthen capacities to address



statelessness issues; and (iii) strengthen coordination and cooperation mechanisms among domestic agencies and with neighboring countries and international communities. These above activities are assessed as in line with actions prescribed in the Global Action Plan to end statelessness (i.e. Action 1 and 5, 2 and 7, 6 and 8).

Mr. Chairman

To further implement the #IBelong campaign and Global Action Plan to end statelessness, Viet Nam calls for the joint effort of all countries to ensure the basic human rights and strengthen efforts to address statelessness, in line with the international commitments on human rights as well as its context.

Though a challenging and ambitious goal, with appropriate measures at national, regional and global scale with the cooperation and efforts of all countries, international and regional organizations, partners, communities, this goal can be surely be achieved.

On our side, in the coming time, Viet Nam intends to strengthen the following activities: (i) develop a strategic plan to address statelessness in Viet Nam; (ii) strengthen studies to accede one or both UN Conventions on statelessness; and (iii) further improve its policies, laws on nationality towards supporting efforts to address, prevent and reduce statelessness in Viet Nam as well as protect basic rights of stateless persons residing in Viet Nam's territory.

We are also ready to work with other countries, at regional and international level to solve this situation, for the benefit of stateless persons and persons of underdetermined nationality.

Thank you!