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**VIET NAM’S MID-TERM REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED AT THE 3RD UPR CYCLE**

Viet Nam has been consistently dedicated to the protection and promotion of human rights, which is enshrined in the Constitution and laws and demonstrated in all socio-economic development strategies and plans. Based on this consistent policy, Viet Nam has seriously undertaken its international obligations and commitments in the field of human rights, including accepted recommendations under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism at the 3rd cycle in 2019. Their implementation has been reviewed to develop this voluntary Mid-term Report.

Viet Nam has accepted 241/291 recommendations (about 83%) at the adoption session of the UPR 3rd Cycle Report at the United Nations Human Rights Council (July 2019). On December 31, 2019, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam approved the Master Plan to implement the accepted recommendations in Decision No. 1975/QD-TTg, which directed the development and submission of the Mid-term Report on the implementation of the UPR 3rd cycle recommendations. This report has been comprehensively developed with inputs from central and local government agencies, and all relevant stakeholders, including socio-political organizations, specialized organizations, non-governmental organizations and the people. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam has organized several international workshops with the participation of representatives from ministries, scholars and international partners to share information and consult on the state of protection and promotion of human rights in Viet Nam in the period of 2019-2021. This report also referred to and took into account Viet Nam's recent national reports on the implementation of international conventions, including the mid-term reports on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (March 2021), International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD) (January 2021), Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) (October 2020).

**I. BACKGROUND**

* + - 1. The year 2021 witnessed milestone socio - political events in Viet Nam with the introduction of new strategic visions for the development of the country, notably the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam, the National Assembly election for the 15th tenure and the appointment of the new Government. Viet Nam has set the vision to become a developing country with modern-oriented industry, surpassing the low-middle income level by 2025; a developing country with modern industry and high middle income by 2030; and developed with high-income country by 2045. This vision once again affirms the commitment of the entire political system to the goal of national development and strong determination in continuing to build and complete the rule-of–law State. This shall be accompanied by the continued people-led, people-centered and people-oriented approach for progress, social justice, cultural values, environmental protection, sustainable and inclusive development, seeking improvements of people's livelihoods, and enjoyment, protection and promotion of human rights in Viet Nam.
      2. Similar to other countries, since 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic has profoundly affected all aspects of Vietnamese social life, leaving multi-dimensional impacts on the enjoyment of human rights and efforts of Governments in terms of ensuring the rights of the people. As of October 13th 2021, in Viet Nam, a total of 846,230 infected cases has been registered, with 786,095 cured cases (treatment success rate of about 93%). In the first months of 2021, especially since the 4th outbreak with the Delta variant, the disease spread in many localities across the country, putting great pressure on the social and economic landscape of Viet Nam. The unemployment rate has risen to 2.52% (July 2021). The service sector, especially banking, tourism, transportation, hotels, and restaurants were severely affected; more than 70,000 businesses had to withdraw from the market in the first months of 2021 alone. The pandemic has directly affected people's enjoyment of rights, especially their livelihoods, traveling and education due to the application of social distancing measures in many places to prevent the epidemic. Nevertheless, basic rights of the people are still ensured, including the right to access to necessities such as food, essential supplies, the right to medical care, online education.
      3. In addition to the difficulties and challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, in recent years, Viet Nam also has to face the harsh impact of climate change. During the past 30 years, on average, Viet Nam has suffered a loss due to natural disasters which worth around 1-1.5% of its GDP. 2020 was a year when natural disasters took place in a complex, fierce and unusual way across all regions of the country. In total, there was over 458 events of natural disasters, causing 342 deaths or missing, with estimated economic losses of more than 33,500 billion VND (1,5 billion USD). Climate change also continues to create far-reaching socio-economic impacts on Viet Nam, as it does not only affect agricultural production but also alters the supply and demand structure for goods and services in the economy. Extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and salinization occurred more often due to the impact of climate change, especially in the Mekong River Delta - the country's main rice supplier, causing loss of tens of thousands of hectares of rice crops. These have deeply impacted the sustainable food security of the country, and profoundly affected people's livelihoods and enjoyment of social and economic rights.
      4. Viet Nam considers disease prevention and control as a key task. In this regards, top priority is given to protecting people's health and minimizing the number of cases, severe patients and deaths due to Covid -19; socio-economic recovery and development and ensuring social security, order and safety. Disease prevention and control strategies have been fine-tuned to "adapting safely and flexibly and effectively control the COVID-19 pandemic", aiming at the “twin goals” and bringing the whole country to a new normal state as soon as possible. With the efforts of the whole political system and the consensus and cooperation of the people, despite many difficulties and challenges, Viet Nam has achieved positive results and achievements with its economic growth reaching 2.91% in 2020 and is expected to be around 2.5-3% in 2021. In 2020, Viet Nam has risen to become the 4th largest economy in ASEAN and 37th in the world. According to the World Bank's forecast, Viet Nam's economic fundamentals remain solid and the economy can return to pre-pandemic GDP growth rate of 6.5 to 7% from 2022 onwards. Viet Nam also has the opportunity to benefit from the recovery momentum after the Covid-19 pandemic and the implementation of economic restructuring to take full advantage of the 14 Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), including the Free Trade Agreement with the EU (EVFTA), the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Comprehensive achievements in economic development and international integration have contributed to creating resources for people's enjoyment of human rights, promoting the quality of growth and commitments on sustainable labor and development. Viet Nam has also issued a National Digital Transformation Program to 2025, with a vision to 2030 to take advantage of the achievements of the 4.0 Industrial Revolution, in order to promote the application of science, technology and digital transformation. This would contribute to the reconstruction towards an effective, sustainable development model which help the people better realize their social and economic rights, rights to health, education, cultural, and the right to participate in law making and building the rule of law.

**II. RESULTS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

To date, Viet Nam has implemented 199/241 recommendations; of which 32/241 recommendations are ongoing or have been partially implemented and 10/241 recommendations with consideration for implementation at suitable time.

**Political, civil, economic, cultural and social rights**

* + - 1. *Economic right*: Viet Nam has continued to implement policies towards the goal of multi-dimensional, inclusive and sustainable poverty reduction, preventing relapsing into or increase of poverty; supporting poor people and households to rise above the minimum standard of living, to access basic social services according to the national multidimensional poverty line, and to improve the quality of life. The National Target Program on Sustainable poverty reduction in the 2016-2020 period has had positive results, such as the poverty rate of the whole nation decreased to about 2.75%, with average reduction in the 5 year-period at about 1.43%/year. The rate of low-income households in poor districts is about 24%, with 5.65% decrease in average per year during the 5 year-period. However, due to the severe impact of the pandemic, the number of poor households in Viet Nam is expected to increase for the first time. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has approved the National Target Program for Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Social Security for the 2021-2025 period, the National Target Program for Socio-economic Development in Ethnic Minority and mountainous areas in the 2021-2030 period.

Many policies and concerted solutions with practical output were created to support businesses, especially for small and medium enterprises and workers, to overcome difficulties. These policies also support the livelihood and socio-economic development in provinces and across the nation, such as: 30 percent business income tax cut for small and medium businesses; extension of agricultural landtax exemption from January 1st 2021 to 2025 (exempt about 7.500 billion VND a year); extending and refunding VAT, business income tax, land lease fee and banks credit easing policies.

* + - 1. *Social security[[1]](#footnote-1):* Viet Nam continues to focus on implementing policies to support meritorious people, ensure social security, assist vulnerable groups, especially the elderly, persons with disabilities and children with special conditions. Average income of poor households has increased. The living standard of these households and social protection beneficiaries has been gradually improved. Health insurance coverage has raised from 81,7 percent in 2016 to 90,85 percent in 2020. Policy beneficiaries such as meritorious people, the poor, ethnic minorities in regions of difficult socio-economic conditions, children under 6 years old, persons over 80 years old (in 2020, 99 percent of the elderly has received health insurance card) … got health insurance supported by the government’s budget. The ratio of communal health center qualified to provide medical examination and treatment through health insurance increased from 90 percent in 2016 to 92.6 percent in 2019 and was estimated to raise to 92.8 percent in 2020.

The Government of Viet Nam has promulgated polices to support workers and employers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, including direct financial assistance for workers who lost their jobs or had their jobs, contracts temporarily suspended, and freelance workers. These include measures such as the 62.000 billion VND (2020) and 26.000 billion (until July 2021)[[2]](#footnote-2) support package for people affected by Covid-19. Viet Nam also implemented various solutions to ensure the rights to access basic services, create favorable conditions for organizations and individuals in the society to join forces to support people in overcoming hardship.

* + - 1. *Right to health[[3]](#footnote-3):* Population quality has gradually improved. Life expectancy in 2020 is 73.7 years old compared to 73.3 years old in 2015. Health care center network is maintained across the nation, including border areas, islands, mountainous and ethnic minorities area. Especially in the fight against Covid-19, medical centers have played an important role in taking care of people, including the elderly and people with chronic diseases.

## The Government of Viet Nam place great importance on and has the policy of providing free Covid-19 vaccines for the people in the priority groups recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). Until 10th October 2021, Viet Nam has vaccinated 81.7 million doses for its people despite the global challenge of vaccine supply shortage and its restricted economic condition. The Government has established the Covid-19 Fund (which until 14th October 2021 has mobilized 8,784.4 billion VND) aiming at mobilizing and managing resources and assistance from both domestic and abroad sponsors to support the nation budget in acquiring, importing, researching and producing vaccine. This fund is a measure to guarantee a sustained budget for Covid-19 vaccination and, thus, rights to health for people. The government has also established the Working group on vaccine diplomacy chaired by the Minister of Foreign Affairs in order to mobilize donation of Covid-19 vaccine, medicine, medical items; technology for producing vaccine and medicine transfer from bilateral and multilateral partners. So far, most of the important and traditional partners have assisted Viet Nam with millions of vaccine doses (until 14th October, Viet Nam has received more than 67 million doses of Covid-19 vaccine.

* + - 1. *Right to education[[4]](#footnote-4):* The Law on Education formulated that the State must put the highest priority in allocating education budget, ensuring that the State should spend at least 20 percent of its budget on education. Not only adopting formal education, the Government also created favorable conditions for its people to continue study everywhere, all their life under many ways. Specifically, Viet Nam has approved the Project: "Development of distance learning for the 2015-2020 period" and "Illiteracy elimination by 2020". In the 2012-2020 period, illiteracy was eliminated for 295,308 people in the 15-60 age group, raising the literacy rate of the 15-60 group to 97.85% and that of the 15-35 group to 99.3%. Viet Nam has also issued numerous tuition fee exemption and reduction measures, and cost-of-learning support for vulnerable groups, focusing on supporting students of ethnic minorities, students living in remoted, isolated areas or in vulnerable situations.
      2. *The right to clean water and sanitation[[5]](#footnote-5)*: Clean water and sanitation in rural areas is always a priority in the socio-economic development plan of the Government of Viet Nam. Models and movements of environmental protection in the residential community have had positive achievements. Many localities have built their own effective models and movements for environmental protection. Policies and projects on clean water and sanitation in rural areas have positively contributed to the outcome of hunger eradication and poverty reduction in many localities. Environmental management of industrial zones has made enormous strides. As of March 2021, there were 263/290 operating industrial zones with centralized wastewater treatment facilities across the country, increasing by 13 compared to 2019 and reaching the rate of 90.69%.
      3. *Right to freedom of expression, the development of internet connectivity and access to information, media independence and protection of journalists:* Viet Nam has promulgated and amended various legal documents in this domain, as well as implemented many specific measures to ensure the legitimate right and freedom of expression of the people, in accordance with the 2013 Constitution and the law. Moreover, Viet Nam has also made remarkable achievements in enhancing the people's widespread access to information, especially people living in mountainous, remote and isolated areas or in disadvantaged situations.

As of June 2021, there were nearly 70 million Internet Users in Viet Nam (more than 70% of the population), an increase of 0.8% in during the 2020 – 2021 period. There were nearly 76 million Social Network Users in Viet Nam, an increase of nearly 10 million people within a year, and equivalent to 73.7% of the population. With these achievements, Viet Nam is ranked 12th worldwide in terms of number of Internet users and 6th out of 35 countries/territories in Asia. Vietnamese Internet Users spend nearly 7 hours a day on average to participate in Internet-related activities and the rate of daily Internet Users in Viet Nam is up to 94%. According to the 2020 Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) recently published by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Viet Nam has moved up 25 ranks after 2 years to place 25th out of 194 countries and territories, 7th in Asia-Pacific as well as 4th among 11 ASEAN countries.

* + - 1. *Right to freedom of association and assembly:* Viet Nam has actively implemented recommendations related to this issue in recent years. The Project on the Law on Associations is in the due process of research, development and completion. In addition, the Ministry of Labor - War Invalids and Social Affairs is considering the issue of a Decree on employee’s representative organizations and a Circular on collective bargaining, which help to promote the role of employee representative organizations in labor relations and in compliance with the law.
      2. *Right to freedom of religions and beliefs:* There are 43 organizations affiliated with 16 religions officially recognized by competent Vietnamese agencies and thousands of independent religious groups registered for religious activities, including religious groups of foreigners legally residing in Viet Nam. In the 2017-2020 period, 03 organizations were newly granted certificates of registration of religious activities, namely the Viet Nam United Gospel Outreach, the Viet Nam Full Gospel Church, the Representative Committee of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Viet Nam; 01 organization was newly recognized as a religious legal entity is the Viet Nam Assembly of God. As of December 31, 2020, Viet Nam has 50,703 belief establishments; there are 29,801 religious establishments, 53,390 religious dignitaries, 95,360 religious sub-dignitaries, 40,075 people who are both religious dignitaries and sub-dignitaries in 62 out of 63 provinces and cities and 26,548,509 followers. Viet Nam currently has 63 religious educational institutions affiliated with Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao Buddhism with over 18,000 followers enrolling in religious training courses each year. In 2020, approximately 230 worship establishments were built and 308 worship establishments were upgraded and repaired.

In recent years, due to the implementation of the Law on Belief and Religion, religious organizations and individuals have been actively participating a number of international activities varied in levels and scope. Several major international events such as 2019 United Nation Day of Vesak Celebrations, World Dominican Congregation … were successfully hosted and organized by the religious organizations in Viet Nam. Many religious organizations and individuals have been travelling abroad to attend training courses, conferences, seminars and participated in exchange programs with a total of more than 300 delegations. Religious activities of foreign organizations and individuals entering Viet Nam are facilitated such as registration of places for religious group’s activities (there are currently 67 registered places for religious group’s activities for foreigners residing legally in Viet Nam), invitations of foreign dignitaries or Vietnamese dignitaries to preach, allowance of import of religious cultural products from abroad into Viet Nam….New changes in the Law on Belief and Religion has simplified and reformed administrative procedures in order to create favorable conditions for belief and religious activities of religious organizations and individuals, such as reducing the required operating time of a religious organization from 23 years to 05 years. In 2020, 43 procedures for registration and recognition of belief and religious organizations have been resolved over virtual platform; 18 administrative procedures through online public services which can be monitored on the website of the Government Committee for Religious Affairs.

1. *On death penalty[[6]](#footnote-6):* Viet Nam only applies the death penalty for the most serious crimes. The implementation of death penalty must comply with the strict provisions of the Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code and related documents, while firmly showing Viet Nam’s humanitarian policy. Viet Nam is also implementing many measures to improve legal accessibility for the people. International cooperation related to research on the death penalty and the possibility of ratifying the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of death penalty have also been effectively conducted with the participation of legal scholars, NGOs, international partners with the support from the United Nations Development Programs and relevant stakeholders.

Protection of vulnerable groups **[[7]](#footnote-7)**

1. Many National Programs of action have been promulgated such as the Program on supporting People with disabilities in the 2021-2030 period, National Strategy on the Gender Equality for the period 2021-2030, National program to protect children online, National Action Program for Children in 2021-2030 period, Program on human trafficking prevention and combat in the 2021-2025 period with visions towards 2030, National program on socio-economic development for 2021-2030 period…, safeguarding the rights of vulnerable groups. Viet Nam continues to implement the Law on Gender equality and the Law on Persons with disabilities and actively and proactively research, amend and strengthen the legal system on these issues.
2. Viet Nam promotes the effective implementation of National Programs for the 2016-2020 period, which prioritizing the protection of vulnerable groups and addressing the needs of women, children, people with disabilities including: National Action Programme on Gender Equality for 2016-2020, National Action Program of Vietnamese Elderly in the period of 2012-2020, National Action Program for Children for the 2012-2020 period, Prostitution Prevention and Combating Program for 2016-2020 period, Specific support policy for socio-economic development in ethnic minority and mountainous areas in 2017-2020 period, National Target Program on Climate change and green development, Target Program for Sustainable forestry development for 2016-2020 period….
3. Additionally, Viet Nam continues to make efforts to ensure the full implementation of laws and policies for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the elderly, the poor, etc.; supporting the job seeking process, healthcare, rehabilitation, legal aid, cultural access and transportation for people with disabilities. Local radio and television stations constantly improve the quality of programs; focusing on raising awareness on the safeguarding and promotion of ethnic cultural identities in mountainous and rural areas through increasing the number of radio stations and broadcasting period of multilingual ethnic programs; reflecting the activities, specifically on cultural features and perseverance of cultural identities of the ethnic minorities as well as the customs and habits of the ethnic groups in Viet Nam. In the context of the complicated development of the Covid-19 pandemic, the provisional Guidelines for the protection and care for pregnant women and newborns have been issued to help obstetrics and adjusting isolation facilities suitable for pregnant women and infants.

International cooperation and implementation of International conventions[[8]](#footnote-8)

1. Viet Nam is considering ratification of a number of international conventions on human rights such as the Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the 2021-2025 period; Convention on the protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families, International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 97 on Migration for Work and Convention No. 143 on Labor migration movement.
2. In addition, Viet Nam is also conducting research, assessing the possibility of acceding to a number of international conventions on human rights such as the Convention on the Protection of All Persons from Forced Disappearance (CPED), the 1954 Convention on the status of stateless people ..., in which Viet Nam is currently in the process of assessing the compatibility between Vietnamese law and the provisions of the Conventions.
3. Viet Nam ratified its accession to ILO Convention No. 98 on the application of principles of the right to organize and collective bargaining in 2019 and ILO Convention No. 105 on the abolition of forced labor in 2019. June 2020. Thus, as of January 1, 2021, Viet Nam has joined 25 international conventions on labor rights of the ILO, including 7 out of 8 basic conventions. In 2019, Viet Nam also passed an amended Labor Code with many new regulations to better ensure workers' rights, compatible with international commitments that Viet Nam is a party to, including ILO and United Nations conventions on human rights to which Viet Nam has joined as well as the CPTPP and EVFTA Agreements. The preparation of the dossier for accession to ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and the protection of the right to organize follows the roadmap set out in Decision No. 121/QD-TTg dated January 24, 2021 of the Prime Minister approving the CPTPP implementation plan which is being carried out according to schedule and is expected to complete in 2023.
4. Regarding the implementation of international commitments, Viet Nam has submitted the fifth national report on the implementation of the CERD Convention to the Convention Committee (January 2021) and is waiting for the Committee to schedule the report. Viet Nam has also developed an Implementation Plan for the recommendations of ICCPR and CAT Committees and submitted Mid-Term Reports on the Implementation of the Recommendations (CAT in October 2020, ICCPR in March 2021).
5. Regarding strengthening cooperation with UN mechanisms, Viet Nam has invited the Special Rapporteur on development rights to visit Viet Nam.However, the visit has not taken place due to the pandemic. Viet Nam continues to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the United Nations and the Special Procedures, especially during regular meetings of the Human Rights Council as well as regularly responds to requests for information from Special procedures.
6. Regarding enhancing dialogue, Viet Nam continues to hold human rights dialogues with partners such as the United States, Australia, EU..., as well as maintains regular exchanges with countries in other frameworks and United Nations multilateral forums. In the context of the pandemic, Viet Nam has also had informal exchanges with other countries via virtual platform to maintain dialogue on issues of mutual concern.
7. In 2020, Viet Nam for the first time proposed and spearheaded the adoption by consensus of a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to designate December 27 as the International Day for Epidemic Prevention and Control with 112 co-sponsors. This marked a practical contribution of Viet Nam to the world's common efforts in raising awareness of the need for disease preparedness, demonstrating a strong commitment to ensuring human rights as a responsible member of the international community.

**Strengthen education on human rights[[9]](#footnote-9)**:

1. On September 5, 2017, the Government of Viet Nam approved the Scheme to include human rights content in the human rights education program into the educational program of the national education system. Identified the goal that by 2025, human rights education is delivered to learners in every education establishment. The scheme aims to promote awareness and help children to protect their rights, develop respect for human rights, ensure the implementation and build conditions for children's rights for members, managers and authorities at all levels. In particular, the Government of Viet Nam focuses on promoting human rights education in training programs; conducting researches on human rights; developing programs and plans to propagate and disseminate the law on human rights at research centers and specialized training institutions. To implement the Project appropriately, Viet Nam has included human rights education in the curricula of secondary education.
2. In the program, general education textbooks issued with Decision No. 16/QD-BGDDT dated May 5, 2006 on human rights education and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child were included in elementary school textbook lessons. At the same time, the civic education program in Circular No. 32/2018/TT-BGDĐT of the Ministry of Education and Training dated December 26, 2018 on general education program also has contents and topics on human rights and children's rights in moral education, life skills and law. The knowledge of human rights is attached to daily life context, suitable with students’ social awareness.
3. For undergraduate level, especially at university with law programs such as the Institute of Human Rights (under the Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics), the Faculty of Law of Vietnam National University, Hanoi and Hanoi Law University (with a total of nearly 25,000 students), some courses have integrated human rights issues; encouraged students to research and learn about human rights issues.
4. In addition, Viet Nam has been promoting human rights knowledge training for state and local civil servants to increase awareness, capacity and effectiveness of human rights work at grassroot level. Vietnam has included human rights education in police academies, launched many training courses, opened many classes for the entire police force, especially those involved in ensuring human rights.

**Perfecting the legal system[[10]](#footnote-10)**

1. During the 2016-2021 period, Viet Nam has been continuing its legal reform process, focusing on removing many difficulties and obstacles in judicial work, especially in the locality. In 2020, for the first time, the Government organized a nationwide online conference on building, perfecting, and enforcing the law. The Prime Minister issued Directive No. 43/CT-TTg dated December 11, 2020 on improving the quality of construction work, perfecting the legal system and enhancing the efficiency of law enforcement. Viet Nam has passed the Law amending and supplementing the Law on the Promulgation of Legal Documents. The process of developing laws and ordinances continues to be improved towards more specific regulations to improve the quality of the legal documents, enhance responsibility and strengthen the coordination between agencies in receiving and revising law projects, ordinances and resolutions; more reasonable and realistic regulations on legal documents that need to build proposals according to policy process and shortened process. Inthe 2016-2020 period, the Ministries have developed and submitted to the Government and the Prime Minister a total of 5,330 legal documents, an increase of 1,515 documents (increased by 39.7%) compared to that of previous term; localities have issued a total of 20,923 provincial legal documents (up 51.7% compared to the previous term), 13,990 district legal documents (down 54.5%) and 72,253 commune legal documents (down 63%).
2. Since 2019, Viet Nam has passed 36 laws, including many important legal documents related to human and civil rights, contributing to specifying the provisions of the 2013 Constitution, in accordance with international conventions to which Viet Nam is a party such as the Labor Code, the Youth Law, the Residence Law, the Law amending and supplementing the Law on Handling Administrative Violations, the Law on Exit and Entry of Vietnamese Citizens, Law on Mediation and Dialogue at Court, Law on Vietnamese Workers Working Abroad under Contract, etc. To implement several recommendations, Viet Nam is also considering amending and supplementing a number of laws to fulfill Viet Nam's international commitments, such as amending the Law on Children by defining a child as a person under the age of 18, studying and drafting the Law on Prostitution Prevention and Control.
3. The process of elaborating, drafting and promulgating legal documents has ensured publicity, democracy, transparency and created favorable conditions for individuals and organizations to share their opinions widely and conveniently, beneficial and effective. In particular, the Law Amending and Supplementing a Number of Articles of the Law on Promulgation of Legal Documents in 2020 has added clearer and more specific provisions on the Fatherland Front’s responsibility for social criticism, as well as the responsibility of State agencies in collecting, studying, acknowledging and responding to public comments on web portals during the development of legal documents.
4. A number of recommendations have been partially implemented or are in the process of being studied and reviewed for potential adjustments related to issues such as establishing a National Human Rights Agency, adjusting the definition of children to those below 18 years old in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, preventing gender-based violence and discrimination, or preventing human trafficking... 01 recommendation related to the amendment of criminal law and criminal justice is currently being considered for implementation at an appropriate time. These contents have all been incorporated into the National Master Plan on Improving the Effectiveness of Implementing the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and recommendations of the United Nations Human Rights Committee[[11]](#footnote-11).

**III. FORECAST, PRIORITIES AND THE NEED FOR COOPERATION IN THE COMING TIME**

1. The Covid-19 pandemic continues to have far-reaching impacts on the enjoyment of citizen rights, and Viet Nam will continue to have to deal with many ongoing challenges. Climate change, natural disasters, epidemics and other non-traditional security issues, including cyber security, are causing increasingly heavy and multi-dimentional impacts on Viet Nam's stable and sustainable development, and thus diverting resources allocated to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of UPR recommendations accepted by Viet Nam. Many policies have to be realized in projects that lack funding. Therefore, they have to be integrated into other projects or suffer from an insufficient level of investment.
2. In the new context, Viet Nam continues to act in a firm, yet flexible and effective manner to reach the dual goals of preventing and controlling diseases and protecting the health of the population, and socio-economic recovery and development in a state of “new normal”. This requires a concerted and effective fiscal, monetary and other policies to appropriately stimulate aggregate demand, remove difficulties for production and business, and promote growth, while maintaining macroeconomic stability and controlling inflation.
3. In addition, during the implementation process, Viet Nam also identified technical difficulties and challenges. A number of recommendations are of a macro and interdisciplinary nature, hindering appropriate division of responsibility. The organizational structure and quality of officers, especially at the grass-root level, are still limited and sometimes not meeting the requirements of the new situation. Some legal documents, although still able to resolve the difficulties and obstacles that arise in practice, are still overlapping and contradictory. The coordination between relevant ministries and branches in the process of developing legal documents on human rights has not always been prompt and rigorous, leading to the prolongation of the process and affecting the quality of legal documents. Viet Nam is currently continuing to research and promote judicial reform, develop the Strategy to build and perfect the Socialist Rule of Law State of Vietnam by 2030, with a vision to continue building the Rule of Law State in 2045.
4. The context of the Covid-19 pandemic causing disruptions in traditional economic activities has created more difficulties for Viet Nam’s process of economic restructuration. However, this is also an opportunity for Viet Nam to continue promoting the restructuring of the economy in a way which renovates growth models, improves productivity, quality, efficiency and competitiveness. This also facilitates the development of digital economy and digital society, along with synchronous strategic infrastructure system, improving the quality of human resources in association with promoting innovation, and applying and developing science and technology. Viet Nam is currently implementing the Program for National Digital Transformation by 2025, with a vision to 2030, with the goal for the digital economy to account for 20% of GDP by 2025 and for 30% of GDP by 2030; 50% of the population having an electronic payment account by 2025 and 80% of the population by 2030.
5. Viet Nam will continue to implement the accepted UPR cycle III recommendations on the basis of the Master Plan for Implementation of the Recommendations approved by the Prime Minister in Decision No. 1975/QD-TTg in 2019. This mid-term report is the basis for Viet Nam to assess the implementation of the approved recommendations, learn lessons and prepare for the construction of the National Report for the UPR cycle IV expected in 2024. In the coming time, Viet Nam wishes and is willing to share information and experiences to strengthen international cooperation, improve capacity in developing the National Report and implementing approved UPR recommendations.

1. Recommendations 63, 64, 65, 66, 66, 67. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://www.hcmcpv.org.vn/tin-tuc/goi-ho-tro-26-000-ty-dong-cho-nguoi-kho-khan-vi-dich-da-duoc-trien-khai-nhanh-hon-1491881255 [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Recommendations 139, 245, 239, 244, 247. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Recommendations 71, 72, 73, 74, 75 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. Recommendations59, 78 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Recommendation no.*98, 99* [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Recommendation no**.** 57, 286, 283, 287, 91, 92, 95, 224, 232, 260, 262, 264, 265, 114, 136, 97, 100, 103, 121, 201, 249, 240, 250, 101, 105, 258, 263, 266, 267, 259, 268, 269, 271, 275, 273, 274, 225, 227, 270, 276, 93, 94, 257, 284, 223, 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 226, 228, 253, 279, 280, 281, 282, 277. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Recommendations number1, 9, 8, 11, 12, 13, 27, 37, 17, 34, 21, 24, 41, 31, 35, 30, 138, 32, 6, 18, 147, 148, 165, 16, 26, 19, 33, 10, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52, 50, 20, 25 [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Recommendations number 7, 28, 54, 58, 65, 70, 74, 77, 78, 84, 87, 63, 67, 86, 135, 234 [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Recommendations 3, 22, 56, 76, 82, 40, 36, 53, 59, 60, 62, 81, 154, 156, 159, 160, 162, 72, 61, 109, 153, 155, 66, 75, 79, 85, 88, 89, 96, 108, 233, 235, 272, 285, 288, 116, 117, 152, 164, 217 [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Approved in Decision No. 1252/QD-TTg dated September 26, 2019 of the Prime Minister. [↑](#footnote-ref-11)