

COUNTRY REPORT
ON THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN
VIET NAM UNDER THE FOURTH CYCLE
OF THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

1. With a consistent policy of promotion and protection of human rights, Viet Nam attaches great importance to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), and seriously implements the Recommendations accepted under three previous cycles and undertaken a comprehensive review for the present cycle.

I. Methodology

A. Preparation Process

2. This Report was prepared in accordance with Resolution A/RES/60/251 (15 March 2006) of the General Assembly (UNGA), Resolution 5/1 (18 June 2007) and Decision 17/119 (19 June 2011) of the HRC.

3. The Report reviews the implementation of the recommendations accepted under the 3rd cycle¹, provides updates on the promotion and protection of human rights in Viet Nam, and identifies challenges and priorities in the coming time to ensure better enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for everyone.

4. The Report was prepared by an inter-agency Task Force consisting of 18 ministries and organs coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA)².

B. Consultation Process

5. This Report was comprehensively prepared with inputs from government agencies, socio-political and professional organizations, NGOs and the people. Many government agencies, organizations and individuals contributed to the Report via e-mail and at consultative workshops, including those organized by MOFA in April and November 2023 in Ha Noi, and other UPR-related workshops organized by other ministries. The Task Force has duly integrated the inputs received in the Report.

¹ The numbering of recommendations in this Report refers to the listing of recommendations in document A/HRC/41/7 of 28 March 2019 of the HRC's UPR Working Group.

² The Working Group comprises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (coordinator), Office of the Government, Ministry of Public Security, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Information and Communications, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Education and Training, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs, Government Committee for Religious Affairs, Supreme People's Court, and Supreme People's Procuracy.

6. In March 2022, Viet Nam submitted its very first Voluntary Mid-term Report³ on the implementation of the accepted recommendations under the 3rd cycle.⁴ This Report was also comprehensively prepared with extensive consultations with and contributions from all relevant stakeholders. *Therefore, the Mid-term Report, together with the Voluntary National Report on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and country reports on the implementation of international human rights treaties during 2019-2023 are important reference sources for, and should be taken into account when considering the present Report.*

II. New developments

7. This review period of 2019-2023 witnessed many political events of strategic importance for Viet Nam's development that helped strengthen the foundation for ensuring human rights and citizens' rights, notably the 13th National Congress of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPV), the election of the 15th legislature of the National Assembly, and the establishment of the 15th-tenure Government. Through these events, Viet Nam adopted the vision and orientations for national development for 2021-2030, which affirm the goals of building a law-governed socialist state, improving the people's living conditions, and promoting and protecting human rights. Resolution 27-NQ/TW of 9 November 2022 of the CPV's Central Committee sets the general goal of perfecting the law-governed socialist state with a complete, stringent, and consistent legal system, where the Constitution and laws are observed, and human rights and citizens' rights are respected, guaranteed and effectively protected.

8. At the same time, since 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has left profound and multidimensional impacts on all aspects of life and the Government's efforts to ensure human rights and implement the accepted recommendations, and exerted tremendous pressure on the socio-economic development of Viet Nam. Viet Nam also faces increasingly severe consequences of natural disasters, climate change and extreme weather events, which seriously affect food security and the livelihoods and benefits of the people.⁵

9. Against that backdrop and on the basis of Viet Nam's consistent policy regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, since the previous review, Viet Nam has made great efforts to improve its laws, institutions, and policies on human rights.

³ See: https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/VietNam_Implementation_Third_Cycle.pdf

⁴ The Mid-term Report contains detailed information on the implementation of most recommendations, especially in the context of prevention and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to its limits, the present Report does not repeat those details.

⁵ Information about the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic and climate change was presented in the Mid-term Report.

A. Building a law-governed state and improving the legal framework⁶

10. *Between 2019 and January 2024, the National Assembly adopted 45 laws,⁷ including many important legal documents pertaining to human rights and citizens' rights, better concretising relevant provisions of the 2013 Constitution and ensuring conformity with international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party⁸.*

11. *Acting on a number of recommendations, Viet Nam is examining possible revision of several laws to be in line with its international commitments. Studies are underway on possible amendments to the Law on Children, especially those relating to the definition of a child as a person below the age of 18⁹, drafting of laws on combating prostitution, juvenile justice, gender affirmation, etc. The Government also requested the National Assembly to incorporate in its law and ordinance drafting programmes for 2023 and 2024 relevant projects to further improve the legal framework on human rights and citizens' rights, such as the Law on Human Trafficking Prevention and Combat (amended), the Law on Social Insurance (amended), the Population Law (amended), the Employment Law (amended), and the Law on Health Insurance (amended), etc.*

12. *In developing normative acts, the State always facilitates citizens' exercising of the right to participate in public and social governance including providing opinions and suggestions, contributing to the development of laws and policies, and overseeing of the state apparatus' operations. The State also ensures transparency and openness in receiving and responding to citizens' opinions and suggestions. In 2020, the 2015 Law on the Promulgation of Legal Documents was amended with ground-breaking provisions to enhance openness, transparency and accountability, together with the quality of draft legal projects and documents. Most notably, the Law was supplemented with provisions on the*

⁶ Recommendation no. 53, 59, 60, 62, 81, 89, 154, 155, 156, 159, 160, 162, 72: implemented.

⁷ Examples include the 2019 Labour Code, the 2019 Education Law, the 2019 Cinema Law, the 2020 Youth Law, the 2020 Residency Law, the 2020 Law on Amendments and Supplements to certain articles of Law on Handling of Administrative Violations, the 2020 Law on Reconciliation and Dialogue at Court, the 2020 Law on Vietnamese working abroad under contract, the 2021 Law on Amendments and Supplements to certain articles of the Criminal Procedure Code, the 2021 Law on Drug Prevention and Control, the 2022 Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control, the 2022 Law on the implementation of grassroots democracy, the 2022 Law on Amendments and Supplements to certain articles of the Law on Intellectual Property, the 2023 Law on Identification, the 2023 Law on Amendments and Supplements to certain articles of the Law on Entry and exit of Vietnamese Citizens and Law on Entry, exit, transit and residence of foreigners in Viet Nam, the 2023 Law on protecting consumer rights, the 2024 Land Law, etc. In addition, the National Assembly has also issued many resolutions related to human rights such as Resolution No. 94/2019/QH14 on freezing tax debt, eliminating late payment fines and interest for taxpayers who are no longer able to pay to the state budget, Resolution No. 33/2021/QH15 on organizing online court hearings, Resolution No. 43/2022/QH15 on fiscal and monetary policies to support the socio-economic recovery and development program, etc.

⁸ Recommendation no. 36: partially implemented.

⁹ Recommendation no. 272, 225: partially implemented. Specialized agencies have reviewed and studied proposals to amend and supplement the Law on Children and related regulations.

Viet Nam Fatherland Front's responsibility of social critique.¹⁰ Public opinions on draft normative acts have produced positive changes, contributing to improving the efficiency and quality of these drafts.¹¹

13. Viet Nam established a research committee to study the possibility of *establishing a National Human Rights Institution (NHRI)*. The committee has conducted a number of discussions on related matters, including its structure, organization and model. Viet Nam will continue to study NHRI models in other countries that are suitable for Viet Nam's circumstances.¹²

B. Developing new policies

14. Since the last review, many new important policies have been issued to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights of all Vietnamese, including the right to development, rights of vulnerable groups, labour rights, and the realization of SDGs.

15. *Socio-economic development:*¹³ The 2021-2030 Socio-Economic Development Strategy and the 2021-2025 Socio-Economic Development Plan¹⁴ contain numerous new goals for 2021-2030. Viet Nam is determined to further invest in developing human resources and improving quality of life for the poor and people living in remote areas. Viet Nam gives due priority to serving the people and harness the human factor in development strategies. Viet Nam aims to become a developing country with an upper middle-income and modern industrial base by 2030, and a developed, high-income country by 2045. Viet Nam also issued new strategies and policies focusing on social security and protection of vulnerable groups, such as the Programme to improve the quality of healthcare for national devotees, the elderly, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and people in need of social assistance for 2021-2030¹⁵.

16. *Sustainable development and SDGs implementation:* Viet Nam is strongly committed to the implementation of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Since 2016, Viet Nam has made tremendous efforts to reform the mobilization, use and management of finance for development. Annual investment for social development for 2016-2021 always remained above 34% of GDP, peaking in 2020 (34.8%).¹⁶

¹⁰ The 2015 Law on the Promulgation of Legal Documents only stipulated that the Viet Nam Fatherland Front participate in providing inputs on the development of legal documents and did not mention social criticism yet.

¹¹ Recommendation no 61: implemented.

¹² Recommendation no. 66, 75, 79, 85: partially implemented; Recommendation 88: considered to be implemented when appropriate.

¹³ Recommendation no. 69, 119, 128, 102, 115, 241, 133: implemented.

¹⁴ Resolution 16/2021/QH15 of 27 July 2021 of the National Assembly.

¹⁵ Decision 1942/QĐ-TTg of 18 November 2021 of the Prime Minister.

¹⁶ Recommendations no. 130, 112, 126, 113: implemented.

17. SDGs implementation is regularly monitored and evaluated¹⁷. The SDGs database is continuously updated and expanded. Viet Nam issued a set of 158 sustainable development statistical indexes¹⁸ and a Roadmap for SDGs implementation by 2030.¹⁹ Institutions for sustainable development are increasingly improved and strengthened. Viet Nam developed an inter-sectoral and inter-agency coordination network to promote SDGs implementation, including Government agencies, international development partners, businesses and non-governmental organizations.²⁰

18. In implementing SDG9, infrastructure development investment has been prioritized, usually accounting for about 20% of total investment of the state economic sector.²¹ Many important infrastructure projects have been implemented, improving nationwide connectivity and international trade, significantly contributing to socio-economic development and international economic integration, and improving people's lives.

19. *Food security, rural development and sustainable agriculture*²²: In 2021, the Government issued Resolution 34/NQ-CP on ensuring national food security by 2030. Viet Nam also implements the Agriculture Restructuring Plan for 2021-2025²³ to encourage investment in agriculture and rural areas and mitigate agricultural losses. Basic agricultural and rural infrastructures continue to be improved, especially in irrigation and natural disaster prevention. Priority is given to transition from the high-yield model to a high-tech, ecological, responsible and sustainable one.²⁴

20. *Green growth and climate change response*²⁵: The 2020 Law on Environmental Protection stipulates that “environmental protection is harmoniously linked with social well-being, the rights of children, gender equality, and everyone's right to a clean environment”. The National Strategy for Climate Change by 2050²⁶ and the National Green Growth Action Plan²⁷ were adopted to minimize climate change vulnerability, losses and damages by improving the resilience and adaptiveness of the community, and mainstreaming climate

¹⁷ Through the development of the VNR Report, the 5-year National SDGs Report, annual SDGs Reports, and SDGs Reports of ministries, branches, and localities.

¹⁸ Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT of 22 January 2019 of the Ministry of Planning and Investment.

¹⁹ Decision 681/QD-TTg of 4 June 2019 of the Prime Minister.

²⁰ Including: National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement, Inter-sectoral Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD) led by Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI); UN Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals in Viet Nam and Leave No One Behind Viet Nam Partner Network (LNOB Viet Nam).

²¹ Recommendation no. 122: implemented.

²² Recommendation no. 120, 132: implemented.

²³ Decision 225/QD-TTg of 15 February 2021 of the Prime Minister.

²⁴ Viet Nam has ensured national food security and assisted other countries in securing theirs. The country's food grain output in 2020 reached 48.2 million tons, average food per capita reached about 525 kg per year, as Viet Nam is among top 6 countries in this index.

²⁵ Recommendation no. 136: implemented.

²⁶ Decision 896/QD-TTg of 26 July 2022 of the Prime Minister.

²⁷ Decision 822/QD-TTg of 22 July 2022 of the Prime Minister.

change adaptation into national and local socio-economic development strategies and plans. Viet Nam is among the first developing countries to incorporate obligations and commitments on greenhouse gas emissions reduction into its legal system.²⁸ Government agencies, academics and NGOs have coordinated to develop and disseminate information to enhance community's climate change awareness and responsibility, organize conferences and workshops on capacity building for climate change response for localities, socio-political organizations, and people's and youth organizations. The media regularly produces news, articles, and reports covering climate change and sustainable energy transition.²⁹

21. In December 2022, Viet Nam, together with the G7 and other international partners, adopted the Political Declaration on the establishment of the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), with the goal of mobilizing US\$ 15.5 billion in 3 to 5 years to provide financial and technological for Viet Nam's energy transition. The Prime Minister has approved the JETP Implementation Plan,³⁰ which emphasizes the principles of ensuring openness, transparency and equity, and broad consensus among relevant stakeholders, including businesses, workers and affected communities. The Plan outlines tasks to develop mechanisms, policies and solutions to ensure equality, such as supporting vulnerable groups in terms of access to affordable energy, green and sustainable job creation and social welfare policies.

22. *Administrative reforms and anti-corruption*³¹: Viet Nam continues to achieve positive results with the principle put forth by the Prime Minister: "Discipline, Integrity, Action, Innovation, Breakthrough, and Efficiency", together with the consistent policy of "zero safe havens or exceptions" in dealing with corruption crimes. These efforts were conducted in tandem with the application of information technology, the development of the e-Government, and the greater responsibility and participation of people and entities in policy making and implementation through their critiques and feedbacks. The Law on Corruption Prevention and Combat, effective from 01 July 2019, provides a solid legal basis for anti-corruption efforts, with clear-cut provisions on acts of corruption and violations of the law.

23. The Government issued the Master Plan for administrative reforms for 2021-2030 towards a democratic, professional, modern, lean and effective administration service, with focus given to institutional reforms and development of e-Government and Digital Government. The Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) issued new tools such as the Administrative Reform Index and the Index on Satisfaction of the people and entities with public services.

²⁸ Greenhouse gas emissions reduction is a mandatory requirement for all organizations and individuals residing and working within the territory of Viet Nam, as stipulated in the 2020 Law on Environmental Protection.

²⁹ Recommendation no. 137: implemented.

³⁰ Decision 1009/QĐ-TTg of 31 August 2023 of the Prime Minister.

³¹ Recommendations no. 116, 117: implemented.

24. The Scheme for the development of population data, identification and electronic authentication in implementing national digital transformation for 2022-2025 with a vision towards 2030³² was adopted, assigning specific tasks and essential public services to ministries, agencies and localities for implementation. The National Public Service Portal connects and provides information on administrative procedures and online public services; supports the implementation, supervision and evaluation of the administrative procedures, online public services; and receives feedbacks and recommendations from individuals and entities nationwide.³³

C. Implementation of the 3rd cycle recommendations

25. In July 2019, Viet Nam accepted 241 out of 291 recommendations received, including 220 fully accepted and 21 partially accepted recommendations.

26. In December 2019, the Prime Minister approved the Master Plan to implement the accepted recommendations³⁴, which assigned specific responsibilities to 18 Ministries to implement these recommendations.³⁵ Relevant stakeholders, including international development partners, UN agencies, socio-political organizations, people's organizations, Vietnamese and foreign NGOs have an important role in implementing and supervising the implementation of accepted recommendations through dialogue and cooperation. Notable contributions have been made by the Viet Nam Union of Friendship Organizations, Viet Nam Union of Science and Technology Organizations and their member organizations, and the United Nations Development Programme in Viet Nam.

27. *As of December 2023, Viet Nam has implemented 209 recommendations with notable results (86.7% of accepted recommendations), partially implemented and continues to implement 30 recommendations (12.4 %) and is considering the implementation of 02 recommendations at a suitable time (0.9%). No accepted recommendations have not been considered (see Appendix).*³⁶ Regarding several recommendations on drafting and amending laws and acceding to international treaties,³⁷ relevant agencies are conducting

³² Decision 06/QĐ-TTg of 06 January 2022 of the Prime Minister.

³³ Recommendations no. 90, 83, 104: implemented.

³⁴ Decision 1975/QĐ-TTg of 31 December 2019 of the Prime Minister.

³⁵ Recommendations no. 3, 22, 56, 76, 82, 40: implemented.

³⁶ If a recommendation covers several separate contents, some of which have seen results, while others have not been implemented yet, especially concerning the amendment of legal documents, it would be evaluated as partially implemented. Recommendations involving legal considerations, examinations, and research on measures, including the amendment of legal documents, accession to international treaties, will be assessed as implemented if there are research and considerations for implementation to be taken. On the other hand, recommendations directly proposing such measures, even if there have already been studies and considerations for implementation, would be assessed as under consideration for implementation when appropriate.

³⁷ For example, recommendation no. 272 (on redefining the definition of children); recommendation no. 217 (on amending the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code); recommendation no. 174 (on amending the Law on Beliefs and Religions); recommendations no. 9, 16, 26, 19, 33, 44, 45, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52 (on considering

thorough studies and consultations with government agencies, the National Assembly, relevant stakeholders and the people, in accordance with Viet Nam's legislation programme.

D. Promoting human rights education and awareness³⁸

28. Viet Nam actively mainstreamed human rights into its national education system, with a view to having 100% educational and training institutions at all levels provide human rights education by 2025. In 2021-2022, nearly 500 teachers and managers of vocational education institutions have received training on human rights in general and human rights education in particular. Viet Nam has also conducted studies on human rights and developed programmes and plans to disseminate laws on human rights at research establishments and specialized training institutions. In December 2021, the Prime Minister issued a Directive on strengthening the implementation of the Scheme of incorporating human rights into the national education system³⁹.

29. Capacity building and training programmes on human rights have been conducted to raise the awareness and capability of government officials and local civil servants. Since 2020, there have been 04 training courses on human rights for police forces and lecturers from schools of Ministry of Public Security (MPS), along with 02 training classes for chief editors, editors and reporters from press agencies. The Ministry of National Defence has provided guidance to the Border Guard Academy and the Political Officer Training School in developing three pilot training programmes to provide human rights education.

30. Viet Nam paid due attention to disseminating information on human rights in various forms to raise social awareness, such as through implementing the Scheme of human rights communication work⁴⁰; promoting government agencies' responsibility to ensure the right of access to information; and organizing regular conferences to provide information on the promotion and protection of human rights to the press. Viet Nam also increased investment in infrastructure, equipment and staff training to produce media products to raise awareness on human trafficking, promote gender equality and access to healthcare and education, especially for people in remote areas and ethnic minorities.

31. Implementing its obligations under ILO conventions and new generation free trade agreements, Viet Nam actively stepped up communication work to raise awareness on labour rights, including via training courses, workshops and

accession to international treaties such as CPED, CRMW, CEDAW Optional Protocol, ILO Convention 87), etc.

³⁸ Recommendations no. 28, 54, 58, 63, 65, 67, 70, 74, 77, 78, 84, 86, 87, 135, 234: implemented.

³⁹ Directive 34/CT-TTg of 21 December 2021 of the Prime Minister.

⁴⁰ Decision 1079/QĐ-TTg of 14 September 2022 of the Prime Minister.

conferences, both online and offline for workers, government labour officials from central to local levels, and businesses.

E. Implementing international human rights commitments and cooperation

32. Viet Nam is party to 7 out of 9 core international human rights treaties. These treaties are seriously implemented through well-synchronized legal and policy frameworks and achieved comprehensive results.

33. Since the previous review,⁴¹ Viet Nam acceded to ILO Convention 98 on the Right to Organize and Collective Bargaining in 2019, ILO Convention 05 on the Abolition of Forced Labour in 2020, the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate access to published works for persons who are blind, visually impaired or otherwise print disabled in 2023, and joined the Global Compact for safe, orderly, and regular migration in 2020. Viet Nam is now party to 25 ILO conventions on labour rights. In 2019, Viet Nam adopted the Amended Labour Code with new provisions to better ensure labour rights, in line with its international commitments, including international human rights treaties, the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) and the EU-Viet Nam Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA)⁴². The preparatory studies to join ILO Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organize continue to be carried out according to the established roadmap.⁴³

34. Viet Nam is currently studying and considering the possibility of acceding to a number of international human rights treaties, such as the Convention on the Protection of the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families (CRMW), the Convention on the Protection of all persons from enforced disappearance (CPED), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ILO Convention 97 on Migration for employment, ILO Convention 143 on Migrant workers, and the 1954 Convention on the Status of Stateless Persons, the Protocol against the Smuggling of migrants by land, sea and air, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, etc.⁴⁴

35. Since 2019, Viet Nam has submitted and successfully completed dialogues on its country reports on the implementation of the CRC (September 2022) and CERD (November 2023)⁴⁵. Viet Nam has submitted its mid-term report on the implementation of the recommendations of the CAT Committee

⁴¹ Recommendation no. 9: partially implemented. Recommendations no. 30, 35: implemented.

⁴² Recommendations no. 223, 233, 235: implemented.

⁴³ Decision No.121/QĐ-TTg of 24 January 2019 of Prime Minister approving the Master Plan on the implementation of the CPTPP.

⁴⁴ Recommendations no. 16, 19, 26, 33, 288: implemented. Recommendations 45, 44, 47, 48, 49, 51, 52: partially implemented.

⁴⁵ Recommendation no.25: implemented.

(October 2020) and the 4th country report on the implementation of the ICCPR (March 2023)⁴⁶. Viet Nam is now preparing for the dialogue on the 9th CEDAW country report and the 2nd CRPD country report and working on the 2nd CAT country report.

36. Viet Nam always underscores dialogue and cooperation with countries and partners in promoting and protecting human rights. At various multilateral fora such as the UNGA, HRC and ASEAN,⁴⁷ Viet Nam actively engages in issues of common concerns of the international community, proposes initiatives and collaborates with other countries and relevant mechanisms. These contributions have been recognized and highly appreciated by other countries.

37. Being a HRC member for the term 2023-2025, Viet Nam prioritizes eight areas of cooperation: improving the HRC's efficiency in tandem with the promotion of international law; human rights in the context of climate change; combating violence and discrimination, and strengthening protection for vulnerable groups; promoting gender equality; human rights in the context of digital transformation; right to health; right to work; and right to quality education and human rights education.

38. Viet Nam is a member of the climate change and human rights core group, which tables the annual draft resolution on the issue for the HRC's consideration in June sessions.⁴⁸ At the 52nd session of the HRC in April 2023, Viet Nam coordinated a core group⁴⁹ to promote the adoption by consensus of Resolution 52/19 on *Commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action*, with 121 co-sponsors.

39. Viet Nam continually enhances exchanges and cooperation with the UN and Special Procedures during HRC's regular sessions, and provide information as requested by Special Procedures. At the invitation of Viet Nam, the Special Rapporteur on the right to development visited Viet Nam in November 2023.⁵⁰

40. Viet Nam organized the 2020 ASEAN Legal Forum and continues to hold Legal Partnership Fora with international development partners, discussing such themes as "Combating discrimination against women and girls and

⁴⁶ Recommendations no. 6,192: implemented. The detailed information about efforts to protect fundamental rights and freedoms set out by the ICCPR can be found in Viet Nam's 4th Country Report on the Implementation of the ICCPR.

⁴⁷ For additional information related to Viet Nam's cooperation on human rights in various forums and mechanisms of the UN and ASEAN, please see Viet Nam's UPR Voluntary Midterm Report, which includes details regarding recommendations no. 7, 21, 24, 41, and 31 (implemented).

⁴⁸ Recommendation no. 138: implemented.

⁴⁹ Core group consisted of 12 countries, namely Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, Fiji, India, Panama, Romania, South Africa and Spain.

⁵⁰ Recommendations no. 8, 13: implemented. Recommendations no. 11, 12, 17, 27, 34, 37: partially implemented.

preventing gender-based violence”, “Improving and enforcing laws on the protection of children and juvenile justice in Viet Nam's legal and judicial reform process”, and “Enhancing the effectiveness of reconciliation activities in Viet Nam”, etc.⁵¹

41. Viet Nam undertaken measures to implement the 2018 Amnesty Law, ensuring reintegration into the community, and the rights and legitimate interests of persons who have completed their prison sentences.⁵² In 2023, Viet Nam hosted the 43rd Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of Correctional Administrators, sharing experience in implementing the Amnesty Law, educating and rehabilitating ex-offenders and helping them reintegrate into the community.⁵³

42. At the bilateral level, Viet Nam continues to hold dialogues and consultations on human rights and labour with partners to exchange perspectives, positions, and explore opportunities for cooperation in areas of mutual interests.⁵⁴ Viet Nam and a number of partners are working on projects and programmes to enhance technical capacities in the field of human rights. Throughout this process, the participation of relevant agencies, localities, and stakeholders is ensured.

III. Achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights⁵⁵

A. Civil and political rights

Freedom of speech, freedom of the press and right to information

43. Viet Nam’s consistent policy is to ensure the right to freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and the right to access information for all people. These rights are clearly stipulated in the Constitution and laws, and are increasingly better ensured thanks to the rapid development of mass media in terms of both diversity of forms and richness in content.

44. The press enjoys constant growth, provides platforms of discourse for the people and social organizations, and serves as a tool to monitor the implementation of policies and laws, protecting rights and legitimate interests of the people. As of September 2023, Viet Nam had six main multimedia agencies, 798 press agencies (including 127 newspapers and 671 magazines). Currently, Viet Nam has 72 radio and television agencies⁵⁶, with 78 domestic radio channels, 194 domestic television channels, and 45 foreign television channels in Viet Nam. There are 9,959 commune-level radio stations out of 10,500

⁵¹ Recommendation no. 20: implemented.

⁵² The government issued Decree 49/2020/ND-CP on guidelines for the Law on execution of criminal judgment in terms of community reintegration.

⁵³ Recommendation no. 165: implemented.

⁵⁴ Recommendations no. 1, 50: implemented.

⁵⁵ See the Voluntary Midterm Report.

⁵⁶ Including 67 central and local radio and television stations and 05 television agencies without separate broadcasting infrastructure.

communes, wards and towns (including 1,799 radio stations applying internet-based information and telecommunications technology). However, 787 communes, wards, and towns still do not have radio stations, mostly in mountainous or socio-economically disadvantaged areas. By the end of the first quarter of 2023, the number of pay television subscribers reached an estimated 17.5 million (5.4% increase as compared to the same period in 2022).⁵⁷

45. The media in Viet Nam operates freely; press and publishing agencies are not subject to censorship before printing, transmission, or broadcasting.⁵⁸ Viet Nam is currently evaluating the implementation of the 2016 Press Law, compiling proposals from government agencies, businesses, and associations to amend and supplement some provisions of the Law, which will be considered in the National Assembly's legislation programme in 2023-2025.

46. Achievements have been made in enhancing people's access to information, narrowing the gap on access to information between urban and rural areas, promoting socio-economic development in mountainous, ethnic minority, border and island areas. The state invests in and supports the development of mobile networks, internet and social media infrastructure,⁵⁹ enabling people to search, access, express and exchange information freely and easily.⁶⁰ After 26 years of internet connectivity, Viet Nam boasts modern telecommunication technology and a high level of internet universalization. As of September 2023, Viet Nam had over 78 million internet users (ranking 13th in the world, a 21% increase compared to 2019), 86.6 million mobile broadband subscribers (a 38% increase compared to 2019). The internet mobile broadband speed is 48.29 Mbps (a 26.28% increase compared to 2022; ranking 45th and above the global average of 42.35 Mbps). Telecommunications networks cover 99.73% of villages nationwide; while optical fibre system being deployed to 100% of communes, wards, towns, 91% of villages, 100% of schools, and 78.3% of households. Disclosure of information in accordance with the 2016 Law on Access to information has been consistently and timely implemented by state agencies, meeting the needs of citizens, organizations, and businesses.

47. Viet Nam strives to develop a legal framework to ensure a safe and healthy information environment for the effective exercise of freedom of the press and expression in the digital society, digital transformation, and to deal with acts obstructing the exercise of these rights.⁶¹ Specifically, the Government issued several important legal normative documents, including the Amended Decree on administrative penalties in the fields of telecommunications,

⁵⁷Recommendation no. 213: implemented.

⁵⁸Recommendation no.194: implemented.

⁵⁹ Through strategies and policies such as the National Target Program on sustainable poverty reduction (information poverty reduction component), the National Target Program on socio-economic development in ethnic and mountainous areas period 2021-2030; Public utility telecommunications and communications infrastructure program.

⁶⁰ Recommendations no. 118, 42, 189, 195, 184, 176, 181: implemented.

⁶¹ Recommendations no. 172, 202: implemented.

information technology, and press and publishing activities,⁶² and is working on a new Decree on the management, provision, and use of internet and online information.⁶³ On the basis of the Cybersecurity Law, the Government introduced Decree 13/2023/ND-CP of 17 April 2023 on the protection of personal data.

Equality before the law, fair trial, and due process of law; judicial independence of the Court

48. Viet Nam strives to ensure the independence of judicial proceedings⁶⁴ and the right to a fair trial and due process of law in accordance with international standards.⁶⁵ Since 2019, the Supreme People's Court has issued 10 Resolutions and 04 Circulars providing guidance and regulations for the implementation of various legal documents on such issues as money laundering crimes; the process of selecting, promulgating and applying case law; trial of sexual offenses of under-eighteen persons; insurance and unemployment insurance frauds; corruption; interest, interest rate and violation fines in court's verdicts and decisions, etc.⁶⁶ Additionally, the People's Procuracy plays its role as the sole authority mandated to prosecute defendants before court and perform the functions of prosecution and supervision of judicial activities, and engage in all stages of proceedings and prevent violations of human rights in judicial activities.⁶⁷

49. To ensure judicial independence and authority, in 2022, the National Assembly Standing Committee issued an Ordinance on administrative penalties for acts obstructing legal proceedings.⁶⁸ Additionally, the Project on the improvement of the mechanism for preventing, deterring and dealing with wrongful interference with judicial activities is being studied and completed. The National Assembly is discussing amendments to the Law on the Organization of People's Courts, including provisions to increase independence in judicial activities proceedings of the Courts.

50. Since 2018, the mandatory requirement for courts to hold mobile trials has ceased, to better ensure human rights, the presumption of innocence, the right to counsel, and the right to a fair trial. Verdicts are publicly available

⁶² Decree 14/2022 amends and supplements a number of articles of Decree 15/2020/ND-CP of 3 February 2020 regulating penalties for administrative violations in the fields of postal, telecommunications, radio frequencies, information technology and electronic transactions and Decree 119/2020/ND-CP of 7 October 2020 stipulating penalties for administrative violations in journalistic and publishing activities, including increased fines for many acts related to journalistic activities.

⁶³ The draft amending Decree 72/2013/ND-CP and Decree 27/2018/ND-CP of the Government on the management, provision, and use of internet services and information on the network is currently open for public opinions.

⁶⁴ Recommendations no. 64, 158: implemented.

⁶⁵ Recommendation no. 163: implemented.

⁶⁶ See the Voluntary Mid-term Report for more information on efforts and measures of the People's Court and the National Assembly to strengthen and ensure independent and fair trials.

⁶⁷ Recommendation No. 151: implemented.

⁶⁸ Ordinance No. 02/2022/UBTVQH of 18 August 2022.

on the internet, providing equal opportunities for people to access justice and raising awareness of the law.⁶⁹ National Assembly's Resolution 33/2021/QH15 of 12 November 2021 allows the organisation of online trials to ensure timely participation of defendants, accused and related persons, without being affected by natural disasters, pandemics or any difficulties, enhancing equality before the law.⁷⁰ As of 2022, there are 40 family and juvenile courts at 38 provincial People's Courts and 02 High People's Courts.

51. Since the adoption of the 2019 Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments, many related legal normative documents have been amended and supplemented to align with the Law, particularly Decree 133/2020/ND-CP of 9 November 2020⁷¹ and Decree 113/2021/ND-CP of 14 December 2021⁷² with adjustments increasing benefits of persons in custody, temporary detention or serving criminal sentences. Various measures are implemented to enhance access to legal services, ensuring compliance with criminal proceedings and the right to counsel.⁷³

Freedom of religion or belief⁷⁴

52. Viet Nam is a multi-religious country, with about 95% of the population following a religion, belief or faith⁷⁵, including over 26.5 million religious followers, over 54,000 dignitaries, more than 135,000 religious officers, and nearly 30,000 places of worship. Some sites and practices of belief have been recognized by UNESCO as world heritages.

53. Viet Nam consistently respects and ensures freedom of religion and belief, promotes equality among religions together with their cultural and moral values and contributions to national development. The 2013 Constitution affirms the right to freedom of religion and belief for all. The 2016 Law on Belief and Religion provides a solid legal framework to better ensure this right, in accordance with international treaties and realities in Viet Nam, and is

⁶⁹ Recommendation no. 150: implemented.

⁷⁰ Until the end of 2023, there were more than 14,000 online trials.

⁷¹ Decree 133/2020/ND-CP details the implementation of a number of articles of the Law on Execution of Criminal Judgments.

⁷² Decree 113/2021/ND-CP amending and supplementing a number of articles of Decree 120/ND-CP of 6 November 2017 of the Government on a number of articles of the Law on Enforcement of Custody and Temporary Detention.

⁷³ Recommendation no. 152, 164: implemented. Regarding limitations on the application of capital punishment related to Recommendations no. 146, 291 (implemented), please refer to the Voluntary Mid-term Report and the National Report on the implementation of the ICCPR.

⁷⁴ Recommendations no. 169, 210, 178, 170, 173, 182, 193, 199, 205, 206: implemented. Recommendation no. 174: Considering implementation at an appropriate time. The 2016 Law on Religion and Belief is being implemented effectively and compatible with international standards. Revisions of this Law will be considered at an appropriate time taking into account the overall national legislative agenda and conditions in Viet Nam.

⁷⁵ The major religions in Viet Nam include Buddhism with the largest number of followers, approximately over 14 million; Catholicism with around 7 million followers; Protestantism with over 1 million followers; Cao Dai with over 1.1 million followers; Hoa Hao Buddhism with nearly 1.4 million followers; and Islam with over 80,000 followers. Belief practices in Viet Nam encompass various forms, such as ancestor worship, worship of deities, reverence for national heroes, and beliefs associated with specific occupations.

consistently implemented across the country. The new provisions of the Law simplify administrative procedures to facilitate activities of religious organizations and individuals.⁷⁶

54. There are 43 organizations belonging to 16 religious denominations having been recognized and certified, over 3,700 registered religious groups operating independently, including 67 groups for foreigners legally residing in Viet Nam⁷⁷, and 62 religious training facilities affiliated with Buddhism, Catholicism, Protestantism, Caodaism and Hoa Hao Buddhism.

55. From 2018 to 2022, 2,527 religious publications were issued, with over 8.5 million copies. Many of these were translated into English, French and 13 ethnic minority languages. Annually, more than 10,000 individuals participate in theological and canon law training courses organized by religious organizations. Prisoners enjoy the right to use and study religious scriptures, books, and publications on belief and religion available in the detention facility's library.⁷⁸

56. Considering the needs of religious organizations, land fund and legal regulations, the Government provides land use right to religious establishments. 70% of religious establishments nationwide have received land use right certificates. In 2022 alone, 203 religious worship facilities received new construction permits, while 283 others received repair or renovation permits.⁷⁹

Freedom of association⁸⁰

57. Freedom of association is one of the fundamental rights of Vietnamese citizens, established since the founding of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and recognized in Article 25 of the 2013 Constitution. Viet Nam is drafting the Law on Associations to ensure legitimate rights and interests of associations and their members, based on fundamental principles including democracy, equality, openness and transparency, not-for-profit purpose, and adherence to the Constitution, laws and association charters.

⁷⁶ Currently, 43 administrative procedures on religion handled at the central level are carried out online. During the period 2020-2022, there were 256 cases resolved. At the local level, administrative procedures on religion are handled by one-stop integrated services, with procedures and response deadlines publicly posted.

⁷⁷ Since the entry into force of the Law on Religion and Belief, one more religious organization has been recognized (Viet Nam Pentecostal Evangelical Church) and three more religious organizations authorized to operate (Viet Nam Full Gospel Church, Viet Nam United Gospel Outreach Church; Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints).

⁷⁸ There are currently 17 religious books with 4,418 copies in use in libraries of 54 prisons.

⁷⁹ For additional information on other aspects of ensuring freedom of religion and belief, please consult the Voluntary Mid-term Report.

⁸⁰ Recommendations no. 207, 214, 179, 198: implemented. Recommendations no. 203, 197, 200, 186, 215: partially implemented. The right to establish associations has been stipulated in the 2013 Constitution, and the 2015 Penal Code also contains provisions criminalizing offenses against the right to assemble and establish associations. Relevant authorities are currently studying, reviewing, and considering amendments and supplements to normative acts regarding associations.

58. While the draft Law is continually being studied, MOHA is also working on a new Decree to replace Decree 45/2010/ND-CP of 21 April 2010 on the organization, operation and management of associations. It aims at creating favourable conditions for citizens to exercise freedom of associations enshrined in the 2013 Constitution, ensuring the effectiveness of state management related to associations and the consistency and harmony with existing legislation and international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

59. As of December 2022, there were 71,669 associations, 587 of which operate nationwide or inter-provincially (13 of which were newly established in 2022) and 71,082 others operate locally. All applications for association establishment that meet legal regulations are admitted by competent authorities with no refusal of establishment to date.

60. Decree 58/2022/ND-CP⁸¹ clearly stipulates and shortens the processing time for the issuance and extension of registration certificates for foreign NGOs. It also emphasizes the enhancement of financial transparency.

61. The National Assembly promulgated the 2022 Law on Implementing Democracy at the Grassroots Level to institutionalize the motto of "People know, people discuss, people do, people inspect, people supervise, and people benefit". The Law regulates ways of implementing grassroots democracy, rights and duties of citizens, and responsibilities of agencies, organizations and individuals to ensure the implementation of grassroots democracy to promote the people's ownership.

Combatting torture

62. An Action Plan to implement the Convention Against Torture (CAT) was approved by the Prime Minister⁸². During 2019-2022, 11 decrees, 64 circulars, and 04 inter-ministerial circulars were promulgated to improve the effective application of the law to meet the requirements of the CAT.⁸³ Viet Nam also effectively implements and concludes more international treaties on crime prevention and transfer of sentenced persons.

63. Viet Nam has implemented the Project on communication and dissemination of the CAT, conducting training for over 500 leaders and officers working in detention facilities⁸⁴, and the Plan on assessment of infrastructure and implementation of legal provisions on human rights at a number of prisons, detention facilities, rehabilitation and compulsory education institutions. People's Procuracy at all levels has increased supervision to ensure respect for human rights and citizens' rights in all prisons and detention facilities. MPS

⁸¹ Decree 58/2022/ND-CP replacing Decree 12/2012/ND-CP on the management of registration and activities of foreign non-governmental organizations in Viet Nam.

⁸² Recommendations no. 32: implemented.

⁸³ Recommendation no. 155: implemented.

⁸⁴ Recommendation no. 18: implemented.

established and put into operation 39 friendly investigation room models in 35 localities to serve cases involving under-eighteen persons.

64. The investigative agency of the Supreme People's Procuracy is charged with investigating judicial violations and corruption, including coercion and torture. Since 2019, this agency has prosecuted and addressed 08 cases involving 17 defendants on alleged torture. The trial courts have admitted 6 criminal cases involving 15 defendants on charge of torture according to the 2015 Penal Code and tried 5 cases involving 12 defendants. These violations have been discovered and timely dealt with in accordance with the law.⁸⁵

Establishment of workers' representative organizations at the grassroots level⁸⁶

65. The Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MOLISA) adopted a Plan to study the possibility of acceding to ILO Convention 87⁸⁷, outlining 07 specific groups of tasks to be undertaken to recommend accession. Important provisions of Convention 87 were incorporated into the 2019 Labour Code, specifically the right of workers to establish their own representative organizations that do not belong to the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour.

66. MOLISA also issued Circular 10/2020/TT-BLDTBXH in November 2020 guiding the implementation of certain provisions of the Labour Code, including contents related to collective bargaining council.

Statelessness prevention and reduction⁸⁸

67. Viet Nam has reviewed and implemented measures to ensure the right to a nationality, promoting the registration and management of civil status for free migrants, stateless persons, or persons without personal identification documents. Since 2019, the Ministry of Justice has submitted to the President recommendations of granting Vietnamese citizenship for over 1,500 cases. To date, all cities and provinces have established the civil status registration and management system with interlinked administrative procedures such as birth registration and issuance of health insurance certificates for under-six children. Additionally, Viet Nam has implemented measures to reduce statelessness among children, including those immigrating through marital repatriation, ensuring their access to essential services. In November 2023, the National Assembly passed the Law on Identification, including provisions on issuing identification certificates for Vietnamese-origin individuals living in Viet Nam with unidentified nationality. Decree 16/2020/ND-CP, effective from 20 March

⁸⁵ Recommendation no. 147: partially implemented. Recommendations no. 148, 157: implemented.

⁸⁶ Recommendations no. 236: implemented.

⁸⁷ Decision 250/QD-LDTBXH of 25 March 2022 of the Minister of Labor, War Invalids and Social Affairs.

⁸⁸ Recommendation no. 289: implemented.

2023, regulates the implementation of certain provisions of the 2008 Law on Nationality, aiming to better ensure people's right to a nationality.⁸⁹

B. Economic, social and cultural rights

Socio-economic development, social security and poverty reduction⁹⁰

68. Viet Nam continues to implement the goal of multidimensional poverty reduction in a sustainable and inclusive way, limiting the risk of poverty relapse and emerging poverty. The focus is on assisting the poor to surpass the minimum living standards and access basic social services according to national multidimensional poverty standards, enhancing their quality of life.⁹¹

69. This goal is incorporated into the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction for 2021-2025⁹², approved by the National Assembly. This Programme also aims to support poor districts and extremely disadvantaged communes in the lowland, coastal areas, and islands to graduate from poverty and extreme hardship. The total capital to implement this Programme is VND 75,000 billion (more than US\$ 3 billion), funded from the state budget and contributions from organizations, businesses, and the population⁹³.

70. The Government has introduced various policies to support businesses, especially small and medium enterprises (SME), to overcome difficulties such as: a 30% reduction in corporate income tax for SMEs; extending the tax exemption period for agricultural land use from 01 January 2021 to 2025 (approximately VND 7,500 billion, or around US\$ 3 million per year); providing temporary tax relief by extending deadlines for value-added tax, corporate income tax, and land rental, along with favourable credit policies of banks, etc., helping boost socio-economic development, ensure social security, and reduce poverty.

71. Viet Nam continues focusing on ensuring social security, policies on national devotees, care for and assistance to vulnerable groups, especially older people, PWDs, and children in special circumstances. The percentage of poor households decreases annually at about 1-1.5% per year; average income of poor households in 2020 increased 2.3 times compared to that in 2015; the quality of life of poor households and social protection beneficiaries gradually improved. GDP per capita has increased, reaching more than VND 100 million (about US\$ 4,000) in 2023 (a 25% rise compared to that in 2019). Beneficiaries

⁸⁹ The Ministry of Justice also issued Circular 02/2020/TT-BTP of 8 April 2020, promulgating and guiding the use and management of nationality book forms and civil status document forms. The Minister of Justice has issued Decision 514/QĐ-BTP of 1 April 2021 promulgating the Plan to implement the United Nations Global Compact on Legal, Safe and Orderly Migration of the Ministry of Justice for the period 2020-2023.

⁹⁰ Recommendations no. 237, 243, 248, 246, 139: implemented.

⁹¹ Recommendations no. 106, 111, 129, 123, 125, 127, 131: implemented.

⁹² Resolution No. 24/2021/QH15 of 28 July 2021 of the National Assembly.

⁹³ Recommendations no. 110, 114: implemented.

such as national devotees, the poor, ethnic minorities in areas of socio-economic hardship, under-six children, over-eighty persons, etc., are supported by the State budget to acquire health insurance.

72. There are more than one million people with severe and extremely severe disabilities (including victims of bombs, mines, Agent Orange/dioxin) across the country who receive monthly social benefits and medical insurance cards. 100% of communes, wards and towns have completed the identification, classification, ranking of and issue cards to PWDs.

73. A network of more than 544 social assistance facilities was developed nationwide, including 292 public facilities and 252 private ones, 73 facilities for PWDs and 45 specialized social service centres. This network provides services, rehabilitation, vocational guidance and social work for PWDs.

74. Viet Nam issued policies to support workers and employers facing difficulties due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which include support packages of VND 62,000 billion (around US\$ 2.75 billion) in 2020 and VND 26,000 billion VND (around US\$ 1.15 billion) in 2021 in addition to various support packages for other specific groups. Organizations and individuals also contributed to assisting people in need.

75. There are over 2.5 million senior citizens in Viet Nam receiving pensions and monthly social insurance benefits, 1.2 million senior citizens receiving preferential allowances for national devotees, over 1.87 million senior citizens receiving monthly social benefits, and around 10,000 senior citizens receiving care services at social assistance facilities. 95% of senior citizens are provided with health insurance cards, and 100% of senior citizens can use public transportation free of charge. Infrastructures of cultural and healthcare facilities, public transportation, and shopping centres are gradually adapted to ensure accessibility for senior citizens⁹⁴.

76. In 2022, the multidimensional poverty rate was 4.3%, (0.06 percentage point decrease compared to 2021) and the rate of poor ethnic minority households was 21.02% (4.89 percentage point decrease compared to 2021), meeting the targets set by the National Assembly and the Government.

Right to health⁹⁵

77. Viet Nam continues to make every effort to improve people's health which contributes to socio-economic development and ensures human rights. Vietnamese people's health status has improved remarkably, better than countries with the same income level. Average life expectancy by 2022 reached 73.6 years, increasing from around 73.3 years in 2015. During 2018-2022, the

⁹⁴ Recommendations no. 201, 249, 240, 250: implemented.

⁹⁵ Recommendations no. 245, 239, 244, 247: implemented.

mortality rate of infants under one year old per 1,000 live births decreased from 14.2 to 12.1; the mortality rate of under-five children per 1,000 live births decreased from 21.4 to 18.9; the rate of stunted under-five children decreased from 23.2% to 19.2%. The full vaccination rate for infants under one year old is maintained above 90%.

78. Broad preventive health network is organized nationwide with improved capacity and closely linked to grassroots healthcare. 97.3% of commune health stations meet national health standards; 92.4% of commune health stations have doctors. Capacity, quality of medical examination and treatment and patient satisfaction have been increased. Many high-tech, advanced medical services are on a par with developed countries.

79. Inter-sectoral coordination, international cooperation, and communication activities are enhanced to build social consensus, promote technical and financial support for people's healthcare. Viet Nam is implementing an equity-oriented health financing strategy, increasing the proportion of public financing for health based on universal health insurance. The health insurance coverage rate increased from 81.7% in 2016 to 92% in 2022.

80. Viet Nam is one of the countries conducting large-scale COVID-19 vaccination and has a high coverage rate. The World Health Organization recognizes and evaluates that Viet Nam has an appropriate and effective vaccine use strategy with the commitment of the entire political system and the people. Viet Nam was among early COVID-19 vaccination finishers despite a late start. With an appropriate and effective vaccine strategy, Viet Nam managed to control the pandemic with a lower rate of severe cases, hospitalizations, and deaths compared to regional and global rates. From mid-March 2022, Viet Nam has opened the entire economy with the determination of rapid recovery and sustainable development.

81. The Government established the COVID-19 Vaccine Fund⁹⁶ - an important milestone in the fight against the pandemic. The Fund aims to mobilize social resources along with the state budget for purchasing, importing, researching and producing COVID-19 vaccine for the people, on the basis of voluntarism, openness and transparency.

82. By 31 December 2022, nearly 266 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine had been administered, with nearly 100% of people aged 12 years and older having received first and second shots. The rate of people 18 years and older having received third and fourth shots reached 80.2% and 86.9% respectively. The third shot vaccination rate for people from 12 to under 18 years old was 68.6%, while that of the first and second shot for children from 5 to under 12 years old reached 92.4% and 73.8% respectively.

⁹⁶ Decision 779/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister of 26 May 2021.

83. Viet Nam actively implements the National Action Plan on the eradication of mother-to-child transmission of HIV, hepatitis B and syphilis for 2018-2030, and issued the National Strategy to end AIDS by 2030, which includes the elimination of all forms of discrimination against people living with HIV⁹⁷.

Right to housing⁹⁸

84. Viet Nam implemented various policies to support the development of affordable housing, such as the "National Housing Development Strategy for 2021-2030 with vision to 2045" containing new requirements and directions aiming to provide affordable housing and housing for workers that meets the needs of households with moderate to low incomes. Viet Nam undertook numerous measures to ensure social security, including assistance to individuals and households to purchase or lease-purchase houses, and to enterprises, cooperatives and business households to construct affordable housing and housing for workers' purchase, lease or lease-purchase.⁹⁹

Right to clean water and sanitation¹⁰⁰

85. Clean water and environmental sanitation are a constant concern and priority. The 2020 Environment Protection Law regulates the protection of water, air and soil environment and management of pollutants, controlling the impact of environmental pollution on human health. In January 2021, the Prime Minister issued a Directive on strengthening control of air pollution¹⁰¹. Viet Nam adopted a water resources planning scheme for 2021-2030, vision 2050 with goals and principles such as harmonizing and distributing resources equitably and reasonably to ensure economic development and social security; increasing the rate of clean water for urban residents to 95-100% and 65% of rural residents by 2030; addressing drought and water shortage in the dry season, especially in the South-central region, Central Highlands, Mekong Delta, remote areas and islands.

86. In 2022, the rate of households using hygienic water sources reached 98.3%, a 0.9% increase from 2018,¹⁰² achieving the goal of Viet Nam SDG Implementation Roadmap for 2030. Policies and projects on clean water and environmental sanitation in rural areas have actively contributed to poverty reduction in localities. Environmental management of industrial parks has made progress as 263 among 290 (90,69%) operating industrial parks have centralized wastewater treatment facilities (13 more than that of 2019).

⁹⁷ Recommendations no. 96: implemented.

⁹⁸ Recommendation no. 242: implemented.

⁹⁹ Resolution 43/2022/QH15 of 11 January 2022 of the National Assembly and Resolution 11/NQ-CP of 30 January 2022 of the Government.

¹⁰⁰ Recommendations no. 124, 238: implemented.

¹⁰¹ Directive No. 03/CT-TTg of 18 January 2021 of the Prime Minister.

¹⁰² According to the 2022 Survey on people's living standards published by the General Statistics Office in May 2023.

Cultural rights

87. The 2013 Constitution stipulates the rights of the people to enjoy, access cultural values, participate in cultural life and use cultural facilities. Many normative acts provide an open legal framework which facilitates the preservation of cultural heritage and freedom of cultural activities, protects copyright and encourages freedom in artistic creativity of individuals and entities, and ensure intellectual property rights, including the 2009 Cultural Heritage Law, the 2012 Publishing Law, the 2013 Law on Advertising, the 2019 Law on Library, the 2022 Amended Film Industry Law, the 2022 Amended Intellectual Property Law.

88. The Cultural Development Strategy until 2030¹⁰³ determined that cultural development should be promoted on an equal footing and in harmony with economic, political and social development. It sets out major goals for comprehensive development of Vietnamese culture and people in accordance with the trends of times, promoting a healthy cultural environment, enhancing the spiritual life of the people and gradually narrowing the gap in cultural enjoyment between urban and rural areas and among different regions with focus on areas of ethnic minority.

89. Cultural and artistic activities, exhibitions and communications are jubilantly organised from central to local levels. Many activities such as fine art exhibitions, large-scale national and international photo exhibitions, international cultural exchanges have had broad outreach domestically and abroad, attracting large number of artists and viewers, contributing to improving the cultural and spiritual life of the people.

90. Viet Nam actively implements UNESCO conventions, including the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the 2005 Convention on Diversity of Cultural Expressions, to protect the rights of cultural subjects, cultural and creative practitioners. Currently, there are over 40,000 listed sites, 10,000 provincial/city-level sites, 3,599 national sites, 123 special national sites and 09 world cultural and natural heritage sites and 15 intangible cultural heritage of humanity recognized by UNESCO. During 2019-2023, some distinct cultural heritages of ethnic minorities in Viet Nam were recognized by UNESCO as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity and Intangible Cultural Heritage in need of urgent safeguarding¹⁰⁴. Viet Nam joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network with three cities recognized as UNESCO Creative Cities, namely Ha Noi, Da Lat and Hoi An¹⁰⁵.

¹⁰³ Issued according to Decision 1909/QĐ-TTg of 12 November 2021 of the Prime Minister.

¹⁰⁴ Such as “Then” practices of Tay, Nung, Thai ethnic groups (12/2019), the art of “Xoe Thai” (12/2021), ceramic making art of Cham people (11/2022).

¹⁰⁵ Ha Noi was recognized as a UNESCO Creative City in 2019. Da Lat and Hoi An are part of the Prime Minister - approved Project to develop the creative cities system in Viet Nam under the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. They were recognized by UNESCO as Creative Cities in 2023.

Rights to education¹⁰⁶

91. The State gives top priority to and ensures that at least 20% of the state budget expenditure is allocated for education and training. The State facilitates lifelong learning and continuous learning everywhere under different forms. The Government approved the Project on Building a Learning Society for 2021-2030¹⁰⁷, the Project on Illiteracy Eradication by 2020 and is currently drafting a Decree amending the Decree on Universal Education and Illiteracy Elimination¹⁰⁸. During 2012-2020, illiteracy has been eliminated for 295,308 people aged 15-60, increasing the literacy rate for this group to 97.85% and the 15-35 age group to 99.3%. The State promulgated many policies to exempt and reduce tuition fees and support study costs for vulnerable groups, focusing on students in ethnic minority and remote areas, and students in hardship. All provinces and cities have achieved universal secondary education and met standards for universal primary education at the right age.

92. During the outbreak of COVID-19, the combination of different methods of teaching (in-person, online or via TV) and organization of graduation or entrance exams were flexibly conducted by localities and education facilities to ensure the right to education for learners. In September 2021, Viet Nam launched the “Waves and computers for children” programme to support disadvantaged students across the country to study online during the pandemic. 92,629 tablets sponsored by telecommunication businesses were delivered to students in 24 provinces and cities.

Protection of vulnerable groups and people in less advantaged areas¹⁰⁹

93. Viet Nam strengthens the effective implementation of national programmes and strategies with priority given to addressing the vulnerabilities and needs of women, children, and vulnerable groups, while actively considering updating and completing related legal framework.

94. Legal aid for people, including vulnerable groups, has been strengthened. Since 2019, state legal aid centres have completed more than 61,000 cases for more than 61,000 people, including more than 18,000 ethnic minority people, 10,000 poor people, 600 people from poor households, 21,000 women, 6,000 children, 4,000 PWDs, 3,000 elderly people, and many human trafficking victims.¹¹⁰

¹⁰⁶ Recommendations no. 252, 251, 254, 255, 256: implemented.

¹⁰⁷ Decision 1373/QĐ-TTg of 30 July 2021 of the Prime Minister.

¹⁰⁸ Decree 20/2014/ND-CP of 24 March 2014 on education universalization and eradication of illiteracy.

¹⁰⁹ Recommendations no. 100, 103, 107, 121, 57, 95, 224, 286, 283, 287, 232, 269, 275: implemented.

¹¹⁰ Recommendations no. 153, 161: implemented.

Decent work, labour equality and non-discrimination¹¹¹

95. The 2019 Labour Code and guiding documents, including Decree 145/2020/ND-CP¹¹², have supplemented and ameliorated the regulatory framework to ensure the principle of equality and non-discrimination in line with CEDAW, ILO Conventions 100, 111, including those relating to women workers, assurance of gender equality, prevention of sexual harassment, retirement age, and workers with disabilities, etc.

96. In March 2023, MOLISA together with the Viet Nam General Confederation of Labour, Viet Nam Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Viet Nam Cooperative Alliance, and the ILO signed the Decent Work Country Programme to promote sustainable and productive employment opportunities for all women and men in conditions of freedom, equality, security and human dignity, suitable to the circumstances in Viet Nam.

Rights of persons with disabilities

97. In Viet Nam, there are about 7 million PWDs, accounting for about 7.06% of the population aged 2 and over, of whom 58% are women and 28.3% are children, and over 1 million are those with severe and extremely severe disabilities.

98. Viet Nam gradually strengthens the legal and policy frameworks related to PWDs to fully ensure their human and citizen rights in all areas, as stipulated in the Law on Persons with Disabilities and other related normative acts¹¹³, and in accordance with the CRPD. The Viet Nam National Committee on Persons with Disabilities is developing a revised Law on Persons with Disabilities¹¹⁴. Various new policies have been timely promulgated to meet the needs, interests and ensure the rights of PWDs. 38 out of 63 provinces and cities have established province-level committees on disability affairs, and 30 provinces and cities have district-level ones¹¹⁵. These committees play an effective role in supervising the implementation of programmes and plans of action related to PWDs.

99. PWDs are supported in terms of vocational education and training, job creation and livelihood support. Vocational training facilities targeting PWDs enjoy financial support and incentives. There are 1,130 such facilities nationwide, including 225 specialized ones. Every year, about 17,000 - 20,000 PWDs, including women, receive vocational training. Employment centres

¹¹¹ Recommendations no. 108, 233, 235: implemented.

¹¹² Decree 145/2020/ND-CP of 14 December 2020 on the implementation of articles in the Labour Code related to working condition and labour relations.

¹¹³ Such as: Such as Employment Law, Labour Code, Legal Aid Law, Education Law, Medical Examination and Treatment Law, Road Traffic Law, Information Technology Law, Sports Law, Construction Law, etc.

¹¹⁴ Recommendations no. 10: implemented.

¹¹⁵ Report of National Committee for Vietnamese persons with disabilities on the results of work related to persons with disabilities in 2022, directions and objectives for 2023.

provide vocational counseling and job placement to about 20,000 PWDs, including women, with 50% success rate annually.

100. PWDs are entitled to monthly social benefits, receive monthly care allowance or are taken cared of at social protection facilities corresponding to their disability levels and actual conditions. The State spends about VND 15,000 billion (US\$ 618 million) to support and provide monthly social benefits for about 1.1 million PWDs, helps 20,000 PWDs access to vocational training and job opportunities, and supports schooling for 1.2 million students with disabilities.

101. By the end of 2022, 85% of PWDs living in hardship had received social assistance, care and rehabilitation services. PWDs, including children with disabilities and mental illness, accounted for 46.5% of service recipients at 425 social assistance facilities¹¹⁶. 3 million PWDs had their health records created, including 720,000 electronic ones. 11,036 PWDs were provided with free assistive devices. The rate of PWDs being able to access to health insurance reached 95%. Viet Nam promotes international cooperation in healthcare for PWDs, such as working with WHO to develop a model for integrating mental health into general health, focusing on primary healthcare¹¹⁷.

102. Viet Nam puts in place a policy to exempt and reduce public transportation fare for PWDs. In 2022, 121,624 PWDs benefited from this scheme regarding road transportation.¹¹⁸ 19 out of 33 railway stations nationwide have been renovated with special access path, ticket counter and assisting staff. All 22 airports provide assistance for passengers with disabilities from public areas to aircraft, and 13 airports have lift trucks for wheelchair users.¹¹⁹ Many new and renovated structures are designed to make sure the accessibility for PWDs. These include 80% of educational, healthcare, cultural, commercial, service and office buildings meeting accessibility standards, and 85% of technical infrastructure ensuring access and usability for PWDs.

103. Inclusive education programmes are being taught at all preschools and secondary schools nationwide, information technology is applied and community-based care models are developed for children with disabilities. The number of students with disabilities were able to go to school in the 2012-2020 period increased about 10 times as compared to the 2002-2010 period with enhanced learning quality and significantly lower grade repetition and dropout rates. The proper age attendance rate of children with disabilities was about 88.7% in primary school and 33.6% in high school¹²⁰.

¹¹⁶ 2022 Report 185/BC-LDTBXH of 7 December 2022 assessing the state of implementation of SDGs and National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda.

¹¹⁷ Recommendations no. 139, 284: implemented.

¹¹⁸ According to the 2022 Report of the National Committee on Persons with Disabilities in Viet Nam.

¹¹⁹ Recommendation no. 285: implemented.

¹²⁰ Recommendation no. 286: implemented.

Child protection¹²¹

104. Child protection and care is strongly promoted to build a safe living environment to ensure all rights of the child. There are 154,000 children receiving social benefits, 149 childcare facilities within the network of 425 social assistance facilities nationwide.

105. Viet Nam strives to prevent and tackle child accidents and injuries, and school violence. Particularly, efforts in this regard include the Programme on Child Accident and Injury Prevention for 2021-2030 approved by the Prime Minister in July 2021, and the implementation of numerous normative acts and action programmes at all levels aiming to create a safe, healthy and friendly educational environment, and to combat school violence. Social support services are available to promptly detect, resolve and provide information relating to child abuse and violence¹²².

106. Being among 15 leading countries in Alliance 8.7 aiming at eliminating child labour in accordance with SDG 8.7, Viet Nam continues to conduct studies and assessments on the implementation of prostitution prevention legislation to eliminate child labour and prostitution, ensuring that girl prostitutes are treated as victims.¹²³ In 2022, a Joint Circular¹²⁴ was issued regulating the coordination among competent authorities in receiving and resolving denunciations and information about crimes, case initiation proposals, investigation, prosecution and trial of cases of sexual abuse of under-eighteen people to ensure timely detection and strict punishment of crimes and to protect children and under-eighteen people.

107. Inspection, supervision and monitoring activities are strengthened to better protect the right of the child. Four agencies charged with monitoring duties in this regard are the National Committee for Children chaired by the Prime Minister; the National Assembly's Committee for Culture, Education, Youth, Adolescents and Children, the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union; and the Association for Protection of Children's Rights. Capacity building in this field has been bolstered, with 10,000 social workers receiving training annually. In 2022 alone, 1,300 training classes were organized for 127,000 officers on this matter.

¹²¹ Recommendations no. 227, 270, 271, 273, 274, 276: implemented.

¹²² For example, in 2022 alone, the National Child Protection Call Center (111) received and processed 24,698 incoming calls.

¹²³ MOLISA strengthens the implementation of Decision 1629/QĐ-TTg of the Prime Minister approving the Prostitution Prevention and Control Programme for the period 2021-2025, Decision 808/QĐ-LĐTBXH of 5 September 2022 on the Master plan for implementing the Prostitution Prevention and Control Programme for the period 2021-2025, Decision 29/QĐ-LĐTBXH of 16 January 2023 on promulgating a set of monitoring indicators, inspection and evaluation procedures for the implementation of Prostitution Prevention and Combat Programme for the period 2021-2025.

¹²⁴ The Supreme People's Court, the People's Procuracy, MPS, the Ministry of National Defense, and MOLISA have issued Joint Circular No. 01/2022/TTLT-VKSND-TANDTC-BCA-BQP-BLĐTBXH of 18 February 2022.

Human trafficking prevention and victim support¹²⁵

108. Viet Nam continues its efforts to prevent and combat human trafficking and support victims to recover and reintegrate into the community. Agencies at central and local levels actively implement the Programme on human trafficking prevention for 2021-2025 period with a vision to 2030¹²⁶ and promote the commemoration of the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons (30 July).

109. Annually, the MPS launches an intensive campaign to combat human trafficking crimes nationwide and along the borders¹²⁷, eliminating many human trafficking networks and timely prosecuting, bringing offenders to justice. In 2018-2022, 440 human trafficking cases were discovered with 876 alleged offenders and 1,240 victims. In 2022 alone, competent authorities discovered and investigated 90 cases with 247 offenders and 222 victims. Case law has been developed and applied.¹²⁸

110. Government agencies, local authorities and people's associations, especially the Viet Nam Women's Union,¹²⁹ actively implement the Project on "Receiving, verifying, protecting and supporting trafficked victims", enhancing the efficiency of the National Child Protection Hotline to verify, receive, provide primary support and protection for trafficked victims.

111. Viet Nam fully and responsibly participates in multilateral cooperation frameworks on combatting human trafficking, such as the ASEAN Convention and Action Plan against trafficking in persons, especially women and children; human trafficking preventing mechanisms in the Mekong Subregion; the Bali Process on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime; and the Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. Viet Nam also effectively implements bilateral agreements on human trafficking prevention with other countries.

¹²⁵ Recommendations no. 218, 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 226, 228: implemented.

¹²⁶ Approved by the Prime Minister at the Decision 193/QĐ-TTg of 9 February 2021.

¹²⁷ Viet Nam coordinates with neighbouring border countries (China, Laos, Cambodia, etc.) to fight cross-border human trafficking crimes, protect victims of trafficking, especially women and girls in the border area.

¹²⁸ In 2023, the Supreme People's Court issued 02 case law on Human Trafficking (Case law No. 65/2023/AL and 66/2023/AL)

¹²⁹ The Central Vietnam Women's Union has organized reception, consultation, healthcare, and vocational training support for hundreds of women at the "Peaceful House" facility and thousands of other victims have received assistance from local authorities and organizations such as hardship allowances, vocational training, job creation, medical examination, and treatment. In 12/2023, the Social Assistance Centre-Peaceful House was officially established, marking an important step forward in providing comprehensive services to women and children who are victims of violence.

Gender equality¹³⁰

112. The system of normative acts and policies on gender equality continues to improve. The National Assembly strengthens the examination of gender equality mainstreaming in the annual legislation programme and in the submitted draft laws, ensuring the feasibility, accountability and resources for implementation. The amended Law on Domestic Violence Prevention and Control, effective from 1 July 2023, significantly improved the legal framework for the prevention of domestic violence, support for victims, and promotion of human rights and gender equality. The National Strategy on Gender Equality for 2021-2030 has been issued and implemented with the goal of ensuring gender equality in family life, preventing and responding to gender-based violence. The year 2022 recorded progress on all gender equality goals and targets compared to previous years, especially in the areas of politics, economic, labour, employment, and prevention of domestic violence and gender-based violence. Viet Nam has also developed its first-ever National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. According to the 2022 Global Gender Gap Report published by the World Economic Forum in July 2023¹³¹, Viet Nam's gender equality index ranked 72 out of 146 countries, jumping 11 places compared to 2022 and 15 places compared to 2021.

113. Viet Nam has strengthened measures to address the abuse of sex-selection medical technology without restricting access to safe abortion services for women, including new provisions in Decree 117/2020/ND-CP on penalties for administrative violations in the healthcare sector.¹³²

Prevention of discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity¹³³

114. In August 2022, the Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a document affirming that homosexuality, bisexuality and transgenderism are not illnesses, instructing medical facilities not to discriminate or force intervention or "treatment" and only to provide psychological support (if necessary and should be performed by people with understanding of gender identity). This helped align Viet Nam's health policy with global health and human rights standards. A draft law on gender affirmation was proposed by a National Assembly deputy, with inputs from the MOH, relevant authorities and stakeholders, including the rights to change gender identity, to re-identify gender identity, and to choose methods of gender reassignment. The National Assembly is expected to consider this draft law in the coming years.

¹³⁰ Recommendations no. 91, 92, 260, 261, 262, 264, 265, 101, 105, 258, 263, 266, 267, 257, 259, 268: implemented.

Recommendations no. 217: partially implemented.

¹³¹ Read further at https://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2023.pdf.

¹³² Recommendation no. 94: implemented.

¹³³ Recommendations no. 109, 97: implemented. Recommendation no. 93: partially implemented.

*Rights of ethnic minorities*¹³⁴

115. Viet Nam's consistent policy is to ensure equality and solidarity and foster mutual respect among 54 ethnic communities for common progress. All ethnic communities, regardless of historical background, population size or level of development, are treated equally in terms of rights and duties in all areas of life, as guaranteed by the Constitution and the law. Together with all human and citizen's rights, ethnic minorities enjoy privileges as provided by law, especially related to the conservation and promotion of their traditional cultural values¹³⁵, conservation of their spoken and written languages, together with their custom.

116. Over 80 typical traditional festivals¹³⁶ of ethnic minorities have been appropriately restored, conserved and developed. Due attention is paid to the inventory, collection and registration of intangible cultural heritage of ethnic minorities. Two museums specializing in ethnology and many others in various localities¹³⁷ have exhibitions on ethnic minorities. These museums receive funding for the development and renovation of facilities, and collection and conservation of artifacts. Viet Nam also actively prepares dossiers to be submitted to the UNESCO for recognizing its intangible cultural heritages. 253 out of 498 intangible cultural heritages inscribed on the National Intangible Cultural Heritage List belong to ethnic minorities, accounting for 50%. For the Intangible Cultural Heritages recognized by UNESCO, the number is 5 out of 15. 206 sites of ethnic minorities are recognized as national and provincial relics and receive the funding for restoration and conservation. Many sites become tourist attractions, contributing to the socio-economic development of ethnic minorities.

117. The 2009 Law on cultural heritage stipulates that the State protects and promotes spoken and written languages of ethnic communities. Accordingly, the conservation of spoken and written languages for ethnic minorities is a priority in Viet Nam's education policy¹³⁸. Official teaching and

¹³⁴ Recommendations no. 253, 279, 280, 281, 282, 277: implemented.

¹³⁵ Develop and implement the Project "Preserving and promoting the traditional costumes of Vietnamese ethnic minorities in the current period", the Program of cultural and artistic activities to serve remote, border and maritime areas, islands and ethnic minority areas in the period 2021-2030, Project "Preserving, restoring and promoting the values of folk songs, folk dance and folk music of ethnic minorities associated with tourism development in the period 2021-2030", Project "Organizing periodic regional cultural, sports and tourism exchange festivals with ethnic minorities in the period 2021-2030", Project "Preserving and Promoting the value of folk literature of ethnic minorities until 2030".

¹³⁶ Including festivals of ethnic groups such as: Ê Đê, Mường, Thái, Tày, Bru-Vân Kiều, Cơ Tu, Mông, Nùng, Dao, Bahnar, Chứt, Khmer, Stiêng, Kơ Mú, Lào, Giáy, Lô Lô, Co, Mạ, Bô Y, Pà Thên, Ó Đu, Rơ Măm,...

¹³⁷ 02 museums specializing in ethnology are the Museum of Cultures of Vietnam's Ethnic Groups and the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, along with museums in Ha Giang, Yen Bai, Dak Lak, An Giang, and the Museum of Cham Sculpture

¹³⁸ 2019 Education Law; Decree 82/2010/ND-CP of 15 July 2010 of the Government regulating the teaching and learning of spoken and written languages of ethnic minorities in general education establishments and continuing education centers; Circular No. 32/2021/TT-BGDĐT of 22 November 2021 of the Ministry of Education and Training guiding the implementation of a number of articles of Decree 82/2010/ND-CP of 15

learning of 6 ethnic minority languages¹³⁹ are conducted in schools at general education level in 22 provinces and cities, with more than 700 schools, 5,000 classes and 174,000 students (increased by 5,000 students compared to 2015). Additionally, 09 ethnic minority languages¹⁴⁰ are being taught on experimental basis in schools and continuing education centres in 16 provinces and cities. Ethnic minority languages are included in the training for officials and public servants working in areas with ethnic minorities¹⁴¹.

118. The conservation of spoken and written languages of ethnic minorities is also realized via the organization of cultural festivities and exchanges at regional, provincial, local levels, and within each ethnicity, together with classes on intangible cultural heritage. Local libraries are equipped with materials suitable to demographic characteristics and customs of ethnic groups. Viet Nam encourages and provides funding for publications targeting ethnic minority children. Public libraries' and ethnic cultural bookcases at the grassroots levels are enriched with bilingual publications in both minority and official languages¹⁴². Additionally, ethnic minority languages are used for broadcasting on national and local radio and television channels¹⁴³.

119. Despite budget constraints, Viet Nam prioritizes the National Target Programme for Socio-Economic Development in Ethnic Minority and Mountainous Areas for 2021-2030 with a total budget of over VND 137,000 trillion (about US\$ 5.6 billion).

IV. Priorities and commitments

A. Outstanding difficulties and challenges

120. Achievements in the promotion and protection of human rights, together with the implementation of 3rd cycle accepted recommendations showcase Viet Nam's strong commitments and continuous efforts. However, there remain numerous difficulties stemming from Viet Nam's particular circumstances and global challenges.

121. Social protection and social security in Viet Nam, a developing country with relatively limited resources, remain modest, and has not fully met

July 2010 of the Government regulates the teaching and learning of spoken and written languages of ethnic minorities in general education establishments and continuing education centers .

¹³⁹ Bahnar, Cham, E De, Jrai, Khmer, HMong.

¹⁴⁰ Cham (Cham Arabic), Thai, Co Tu, Ta Oi, Pa Co, Bru Van Kieu, Tay, Nung, Stieng.

¹⁴¹ In 2016-2020, 140,813 officials participated in language courses and received ethnic minority language certificates. For the year 2019-2020, 18 ethnic minorities languages have been taught at 17 provinces, with 66 new classes and 3,053 participants.

¹⁴² Yen Bai Provincial Library digitizes 100% of documents in ethnic languages; people libraries at Khmer pagodas serve documents in ethnic languages for Khmer people in southern provinces/cities.

¹⁴³ Viet Nam Television (VTV5 channel) produces and broadcasts programmes in 28 ethnic minority languages broadcasted 24 hours a day; The Voice of Vietnam (VOV4 radio system) broadcasts 12 ethnic minority language programmes daily; Local radio and television stations such as Dien Bien, Ha Giang, Lao Cai, Tuyen Quang, Bac Kan, Thai Nguyen, etc., all have radio and television programmes in many ethnic minority languages.

the needs of the poor and vulnerable groups. Globalization, the market economy and the rapid development and widespread application of science and technology create many opportunities for economic growth, but also deepen inequality and affect access to social services among different geographical areas and social strata. In this connection, vulnerable groups are always most disproportionately impacted, with least adaptability. Industrialization has attained certain accomplishments but yet truly sustainable; many industries are not yet environment-friendly and inclusive.

122. Climate change, extreme weather and various global traditional and non-traditional security issues pose many challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights in Viet Nam. Additionally, it is coupled with the long-term impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, global and regional economic difficulties, and particularly the fact that Viet Nam's economy has not fully recovered.

123. The need for an improved legal and policy framework on human rights that is suitable to the country's circumstances and compatible to its international commitments, and requirements of enhanced transparency, rule-of-law and anti-corruption measures creates great pressure in terms of financial and human resources and timing.

124. The awareness of the people and officials at all levels on the promotion and protection of human rights remains uneven and inadequate, affecting the outcome of implementation of the State's laws and policies. Moreover, it is still a challenge to harmonize universal values and internationally recognised standards of human rights with diverse cultures and custom of many local communities.

B. Priorities and commitments

125. Building on the achievements and striving to overcome the challenges, Viet Nam commits to further promoting human rights in Viet Nam and globally. In that spirit, Viet Nam aims to engage in substantive dialogues and effective cooperation with other countries in the 4th UPR cycle, and will consider recommendations from other countries, prioritizing the implementation of those that align with Viet Nam's priorities, situation and circumstances. The main priorities include:

126. Continually building the law-governed socialist state of Viet Nam, perfecting the legal and policy framework and increasing resources for sustainable and inclusive development, promoting democracy, improving the effectiveness of the law-governed socialist State and further incorporating international human rights treaties into domestic legislation.

127. Enhancing measures, policies and resources to better ensure that all human rights, including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, are

enjoyed in accordance with internationally recognized standards; improving the efficiency of public services; intensifying administrative reforms; effectively implementing national strategies for green transition and digital transformation; improving people's access to information; and promoting the development of the press and media.

128. Fully implementing the SDGs, expanding social welfare systems, reducing social inequality, ensuring the enjoyment of fundamental human rights for vulnerable groups, narrowing the development gap among geographical regions and population groups, reducing multidimensional poverty, and supporting the livelihoods for the people. To that end, ensuring the full, effective and constructive participation and engagement of international development partners, including UN agencies, businesses, social-political and professional organizations, people's organizations, national and international NGOs, is an important measure, especially in making use of experiences, knowledge, and resources of these stakeholders to contribute to the socio-economic development.

129. Prioritizing human rights awareness raising among officials, public servants, businesses and the people, particularly on the international human rights treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

130. Continuously promoting gender equality and women's progress, incorporating gender perspectives in the consultation, development and implementation of policies, and preventing all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls.

131. Continuously strengthening cooperation with other countries, UN mechanisms, and regional human rights bodies in the spirit of equality, respect for international law, non-interference in internal affairs, with a view to foster capacity-building and technical assistance aiming at ensuring full enjoyment of human rights and benefits for the people in practice.

132. Serving as an active member of the HRC for the term 2023-2025, promoting the priorities including issues related to gender equality, vulnerable groups, response to non-traditional security challenges such as climate change, food security, and promotion of labour rights and the right to health.

133. Further contributing meaningfully to ASEAN cooperation on human rights, especially within the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and in the implementation of the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration./.

**ANNEX TO VIET NAM'S NATIONAL REPORT
UNDER THE 4TH CYCLE OF UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW
On the status of implementation of the recommendations
accepted by Viet Nam under the 3rd cycle of the UPR
(As of January 2024)**

Recommendation No.¹⁴⁴	Position¹⁴⁵	Status
1	Accepted	Implemented
3	Accepted	Implemented
6	Partially accepted	Implemented
7	Accepted	Implemented
8	Accepted	Implemented
9	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
10	Accepted	Implemented
11	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
12	Accepted	Partially implemented
13	Accepted	Implemented
16	Accepted	Implemented
17	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
18	Accepted	Implemented
19	Accepted	Implemented
20	Accepted	Implemented
21	Accepted	Implemented
22	Accepted	Implemented
24	Accepted	Implemented
25	Accepted	Implemented
26	Accepted	Implemented
27	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
28	Accepted	Implemented
30	Accepted	Implemented
31	Accepted	Implemented
32	Partially accepted	Implemented
33	Accepted	Implemented
34	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
35	Accepted	Implemented
36	Accepted	Partially implemented
37	Accepted	Partially implemented
40	Accepted	Implemented
41	Accepted	Implemented
42	Accepted	Implemented
44	Partially accepted	Partially implemented

¹⁴⁴ The reference numbers of the recommendations are based on Para. 38 of A/HRC/41/7 of 28 March 2019 of the UPR Working Group of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

¹⁴⁵ Viet Nam's position as expressed in Para. 15 of A/HRC/41/7/Add.1 of 26 June 2019 of the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council.

Recommendation No.	Position	Status
45	Accepted	Partially implemented
47	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
48	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
49	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
50	Accepted	Implemented
51	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
52	Partially accepted	Partially implemented
53	Accepted	Implemented
54	Accepted	Implemented
56	Accepted	Implemented
57	Accepted	Implemented
58	Accepted	Implemented
59	Accepted	Implemented
60	Accepted	Implemented
61	Accepted	Implemented
62	Accepted	Implemented
63	Accepted	Implemented
64	Accepted	Implemented
65	Accepted	Implemented
66	Accepted	Partially implemented
67	Accepted	Implemented
69	Accepted	Implemented
70	Accepted	Implemented
72	Accepted	Implemented
74	Accepted	Implemented
75	Accepted	Partially implemented
76	Accepted	Implemented
77	Accepted	Implemented
78	Accepted	Implemented
79	Accepted	Partially implemented
81	Accepted	Implemented
82	Accepted	Implemented
83	Accepted	Implemented
84	Accepted	Implemented
85	Accepted	Partially implemented
86	Accepted	Implemented
87	Accepted	Implemented
88	Partially accepted	Considered for implementation when appropriate
89	Accepted	Implemented
90	Accepted	Implemented
91	Accepted	Implemented

Recommendation No.	Position	Status
92	Accepted	Implemented
93	Accepted	Partially implemented
94	Accepted	Implemented
95	Accepted	Implemented
96	Accepted	Implemented
97	Accepted	Implemented
100	Accepted	Implemented
101	Accepted	Implemented
102	Accepted	Implemented
103	Accepted	Implemented
104	Accepted	Implemented
105	Accepted	Implemented
106	Accepted	Implemented
107	Accepted	Implemented
108	Accepted	Implemented
109	Accepted	Implemented
110	Accepted	Implemented
111	Accepted	Implemented
112	Accepted	Implemented
113	Accepted	Implemented
114	Accepted	Implemented
115	Accepted	Implemented
116	Accepted	Implemented
117	Accepted	Implemented
118	Accepted	Implemented
119	Accepted	Implemented
120	Accepted	Implemented
121	Accepted	Implemented
122	Accepted	Implemented
123	Accepted	Implemented
124	Accepted	Implemented
125	Accepted	Implemented
126	Accepted	Implemented
127	Accepted	Implemented
128	Accepted	Implemented
129	Accepted	Implemented
130	Accepted	Implemented
131	Accepted	Implemented
132	Accepted	Implemented
133	Accepted	Implemented
135	Accepted	Implemented
136	Accepted	Implemented
137	Accepted	Implemented

Recommendation No.	Position	Status
138	Accepted	Implemented
139	Accepted	Implemented
146	Accepted	Implemented
147	Accepted	Partially implemented
148	Accepted	Implemented
150	Accepted	Partially implemented
151	Accepted	Implemented
152	Accepted	Implemented
153	Accepted	Implemented
154	Accepted	Implemented
155	Accepted	Implemented
156	Accepted	Implemented
157	Accepted	Implemented
158	Accepted	Implemented
159	Accepted	Implemented
160	Accepted	Implemented
161	Accepted	Implemented
162	Accepted	Implemented
163	Accepted	Implemented
164	Accepted	Implemented
165	Accepted	Implemented
168	Accepted	Implemented
169	Accepted	Implemented
170	Accepted	Implemented
172	Accepted	Implemented
173	Accepted	Implemented
174	Accepted	Considered for implementation when appropriate
176	Accepted	Implemented
178	Accepted	Implemented
179	Accepted	Implemented
181	Accepted	Implemented
182	Accepted	Implemented
184	Accepted	Implemented
186	Accepted	Partially implemented
189	Accepted	Implemented
192	Accepted	Implemented
193	Partially accepted	Implemented
194	Partially accepted	Implemented
195	Accepted	Implemented
197	Accepted	Partially implemented
198	Partially accepted	Implemented

Recommendation No.	Position	Status
199	Accepted	Implemented
200	Accepted	Partially implemented
201	Accepted	Implemented
202	Partially accepted	Implemented
203	Accepted	Partially implemented
205	Partially accepted	Implemented
206	Accepted	Implemented
207	Accepted	Implemented
210	Accepted	Implemented
213	Accepted	Implemented
214	Partially accepted	Implemented
215	Accepted	Partially implemented
217	Accepted	Partially implemented
218	Accepted	Implemented
219	Accepted	Implemented
220	Accepted	Implemented
221	Accepted	Implemented
222	Accepted	Implemented
223	Accepted	Implemented
224	Accepted	Implemented
225	Accepted	Partially implemented
226	Accepted	Implemented
227	Accepted	Implemented
228	Accepted	Implemented
232	Accepted	Implemented
233	Accepted	Implemented
234	Accepted	Implemented
235	Accepted	Implemented
236	Accepted	Implemented
237	Accepted	Implemented
238	Accepted	Implemented
239	Accepted	Implemented
240	Accepted	Implemented
241	Accepted	Implemented
242	Accepted	Implemented
243	Accepted	Implemented
244	Accepted	Implemented
245	Accepted	Implemented
246	Accepted	Implemented
247	Accepted	Implemented
248	Accepted	Implemented
249	Accepted	Implemented
250	Accepted	Implemented

Recommendation No.	Position	Status
251	Accepted	Implemented
252	Accepted	Implemented
253	Accepted	Implemented
254	Accepted	Implemented
255	Accepted	Implemented
256	Accepted	Implemented
257	Accepted	Implemented
258	Accepted	Implemented
259	Accepted	Implemented
260	Accepted	Implemented
261	Accepted	Implemented
262	Accepted	Implemented
263	Accepted	Implemented
264	Accepted	Implemented
265	Accepted	Implemented
266	Accepted	Implemented
267	Accepted	Implemented
268	Accepted	Implemented
269	Accepted	Implemented
270	Accepted	Implemented
271	Accepted	Implemented
272	Accepted	Partially implemented
273	Accepted	Implemented
274	Accepted	Implemented
275	Accepted	Implemented
276	Accepted	Implemented
277	Accepted	Implemented
279	Accepted	Implemented
280	Accepted	Implemented
281	Accepted	Implemented
282	Accepted	Implemented
283	Accepted	Implemented
284	Accepted	Implemented
285	Accepted	Implemented
286	Accepted	Implemented
287	Accepted	Implemented
288	Accepted	Implemented
289	Accepted	Implemented
291	Partially accepted	Implemented

END