

ANNEX V

GUARANTEEING THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS

I. Guaranteeing people's economic development right and improving their material life

1. Economic development is one of the most important premises to implement democracy and human rights. From the Government's point of view, people's economic, social and cultural rights are realized by combining economic growth and cultural development, improving people's material and spiritual life, conducting social advancement and justice, and protecting environment. In the last few years, Vietnam has successfully carried out economic and social development programs and better met people's economic, social and cultural rights.

2. The Vietnamese people's living standard continues to increase year by year. Over the past 15 years from 1990 to 2004, GDP has increased three times and the annual growth rate is 7.5% on average. Despite the world economic downturn in 2008, GDP growth rate still stood at 6.23%. People's purchasing power increased, which was manifested by the sharp increase of total retail and consumption spending of the whole country was 732 trillion VND in 2007 and up by 31% in 2008. GDP per capita was US\$ 1024 in 2008. Vietnam has recorded a miracle in agricultural development. From a country with shortage of food and have to import to meet domestic demand, now the country's agricultural products not only meet domestic demand but also enough for achieving a high ranking in the world export.

3. One of the factors for fast growth is people's freedom of doing business. It is stated in the 1992 Constitution that the Vietnamese economy is the market economy with socialism orientation. Economic components are State sector, collective sector, private individual sector, private capitalist sector, State capitalist sector and foreign investment sector. All economic sectors are respected and people are provided favorable environment to participate in the development process. Of more than 45 million labourers, there are 4.1 million working in State sector and more than 39 million working in non-State sectors. The rest works in foreign investment sector.

5. Employment is both an economic and social issue. The Government has undertaken important measures to boost economy and create job. In 2001-2008 period, 1.55 million jobs were created every year. Urban unemployment reduced from 9-10% in 1989-1992 to 4.65% in 2008.

6. One of Vietnam's most remarkable achievements in guaranteeing people's rights is the outstanding progress in poverty reduction, human development and quality of life improvement. Poverty reduction is regarded a strategic target in both short and long term. Special programs such as Program 143, the infrastructure project under Program 135 and the preferential credit for poor people have been launched. A 214 billion VND loan was given to ethnic minority households by Vietnam Bank for Social Policies in 2007- 2008. Poor people were provided with medical service. More than 8 million of them were granted health insurance card or free medical treatment card

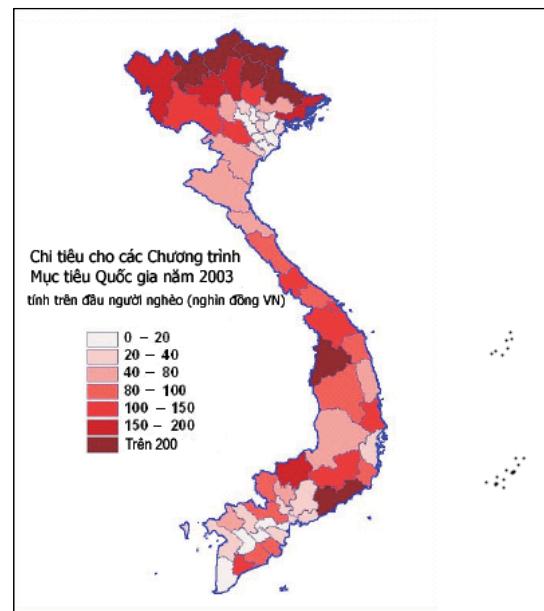
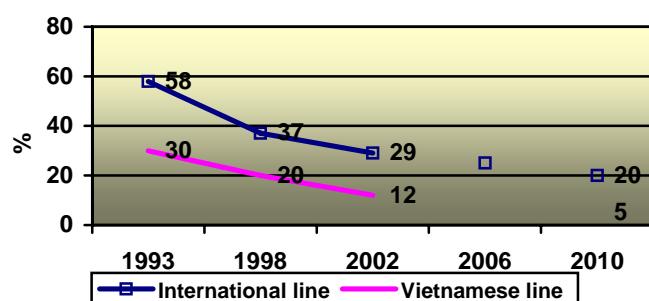


Chart 2 - Poor rate in Vietnam



totaling 205 billion VND. The poor were also given educational assistance. Tuition remission and contributions to school construction were granted to more than 3 million poor students per year. Notebooks and textbooks were provided for 2.5 million poor students. In addition, the Government introduced policies on land and house to safeguard the poor. Accommodation was provided for 293,000 poor households and land was given to more than 10,000 households.

7. With such policies and national target programs, poverty has reduced continuously since 1986. Poor households (Vietnamese line) reduced from 70% in late 1980 to 58% in 1992-1993, 37% in 1997- 1998 and 13.5% in 2008. According to international line, poverty in Vietnam reduced 50%, thus meeting the UN MDG ahead of schedule. In its Millennium Development Goals Report, UNDP Vietnam made assessment: "Recent statistics state that Vietnam continues to record impressive achievements in realizing the MDGs by 2015."

II. Guaranteeing social rights

8. Vietnam's achievements in human development are manifested in the fast growth of human development index (HDI). In 1995, Vietnam's HDI was 0.560 standing at the 122nd over 177 countries. In 2005, HDI was 0.733 standing at the 105th over 177 countries. In other words, despite its still low ranking in the developing countries group by GDP per capita, Vietnam ranked beyond the medium line among developing countries by HDI. That proves Vietnam's special attention to social development.

9. Education is given top priority as a national policy in Vietnam. There were more than 90% of illiterates in Vietnam before 1945. Of 10,000 people there were 238.5 students in 1939, of which 40% were kindergarten pupils and almost all the rest were primary pupils. 0.9 % of population or 2,900 inhabitants were secondary students and college students, of which 600 were college students. There were 4,037 secondary schools nation-wide, of which only 86 were lower and upper secondary schools; 4 high schools; 3 universities all over Indochina. In late 2008, literacy rate in Vietnam was 94%. 47 over 63 cities and provinces met national standard on universalization of secondary education. 97% workers were literates. Vietnam was ranked 64th over 127 countries on education development by UNESCO.

10. In spite of limited State budget, total expenses on education still increase. Since 2000, Vietnam has spent 15% of its budget on education and 2% on science. Education was expanded at all levels and subjects to meet the increasing demand for learning. In school year 2007-2008, there were 495,000 classrooms of 3 education levels with 15.68 million pupils; 345 universities and colleges with 1,928,000 students.

11. People's cultural life has been increasingly improved. By 2007, there were 686 libraries with more than 21 million books; 380 professional art groups, 84 theatres with 128,000 shows. 26,609 books were published in 2007 with 276.4 million copies, up by 2.8 times compared to 2000. Technical book copies were up by 2.2 times, textbook copies up by 2 times, children books copies up by 2 times, social science book copies up by 2 times, literature book copies up by 2.3 times. Total published copies in 2007 were 37 million, up by 1.6 times compared to that of 2000 when total published copies of newspapers and magazines were 1063.5 million, up by 2 times.

12. Today, people can better access modern information and technology. The number of telephone subscriber has increased more than 30 times over the past 10 years, with 79.4 million over 86 million inhabitants in late 2008. Since the first mobile phone's inception at mid-1990s, there have been 37.1 million mobile phone subscribers. There have also been 6.7 million internet subscribers, 20.8 million accessing to internet and 20 internet suppliers. There have been 117 historical and cultural museums in all provinces and sectors that enable people's accession to national culture and tradition. Historical and cultural heritage have been preserved. There have been more than 2,300 heritage sites have been classified, half of which are preserved and conserved with the State budget. Heritage sites at provinces were renovated and restored with local people's contributions. Traditional and cultural festivals were also held in provinces all over the country to meet people's increasing spiritual demand and strengthen national cultural traditions and self-respect.

III. Guaranteeing the rights to health care

13. People's right to healthcare is always a priority in Vietnam's strategy of economic and social development. One of the most remarkable achievements of Vietnam is the success in health care sector. In 1940, there were 741 medical centres including 187 hospitals, clinics and 278 stations; 13,000 beds including 9,800 in hospitals and clinics, 1,800 in stations; 600 physicians, 1,600 nurses, 500 midwives, 30 middle and high level pharmacists. The number of bed, physician, nurse and midwife over ten thousand people were 6.46/10,000, 0.3/10,000, 0.8/10,000 and 0.25/10,000, respectively. It is noted that these medical centres were mostly reserved for colonialists and feudal mandarins, nor for the majority of Vietnamese labours.

14. By the end of 2007, there had been 13,438 medical centres including 956 hospitals, 829 polyclinics, 51 rehabilitation hospitals, 10,851 medical stations at wards, 710 medical stations in offices and 41 other stations totaling 210,800 beds. There were 103,800 physicians and 60,300 nurses nation-wide.

15. Medical budget has increased recently. Total medical expenses were 11,528 billion VND in 2006. Outcomes were achieved in health care service and prevention of social diseases. The number of people suffering and dying of malaria reduced by more than 10% when those suffering and dying of goitre reduced by nearly 3%. More than 90% of inhabitants got access to medical services. Progress has been made in protecting women's reproductive health. Maternal mortality drastically reduced from 91 over 100,000 children in 2002 to 75 over 100,000 in 2006. Under 1 year old child mortality reduced from 26‰ in 2002 to 16‰ in 2006. Statistics in 2004 said 88% of poor people equivalent to 1.66 million were provided with medical card and health insurance card for free .

16. According to World Bank, Vietnam's health indicators are much better than what could be expected in a similar developing country. Progress has been made in vaccination programs of measles, diphtheria and tetanus. Measles have been completely abolished since 1996. As for HIV-AIDS, the strategy of HIV/AIDS prevention and combat in Vietnam to 2010 and directions up to 2020 was adopted by Vietnamese Prime Minister in March 2004.

17. Apart from the development of medical and heath care service, the Government of Vietnam took various measures to improve people's health and prevent diseases such as the fresh water supply and sanitation program in rural areas. The percentage of household using fresh water increases by years from 51.8% in 2002 to 75% in 2008 when that of household using hygiene latrine increases from 50.1% in 2002 to 60% in 2006.