

**REMARKS**  
**BY H.E. VUONG DINH HUE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL**  
**ASSEMBLY**  
**AT THE 5TH WORLD CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS OF PARLIAMENT**  
(2.30 - 4.00pm, 7 September, 2021, Vienna, Austria)

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*Second motion: The global response to the COVID-19 pandemic challenges multilateralism's ability to deliver for the people*

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Since its outbreak in late 2019, the COVID-19 pandemic has rapidly spread all over the world, causing severe consequences on all aspects of life and taking millions of lives. Initially, multilateral organizations encountered certain challenges due to their unpreparedness in face of this unprecedented and worst pandemic in mankind's history. Nevertheless, multilateral organizations have made full use of their roles and coordinated actions to protect the life and rights of the people.

Despite challenges and difficulties, solidarity and friendship have been further upheld in international cooperation through multilateral cooperation arrangements, with the WHO and the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT) and the COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility (COVAX) at the forefront, for countries to overcome this pandemic together.

In the fight against this dangerous and invisible enemy, and in the spirit of mutual assistance and support, Viet Nam has worked with and shared its resources with other countries. At the same time, Viet Nam has also received invaluable assistance from the peoples and Governments of other countries, and from international organizations in terms of medical equipment and supplies, and vaccines to combat COVID-19. Such timely and precious assistance have supported Viet Nam's endeavor to curb the pandemic.

*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Today, global challenges require strategic global actions. It is my hope that countries, regardless of their development levels and political regimes, will work together, contribute their resources, support and revive multilateralism to win this battle against COVID-19. To further enhance the effectiveness of multilateralism, I would like to share a few thoughts as follows:

**First**, Parliaments and countries need to continue to support, trust and strengthen multilateral cooperation, with the UN playing the central and leading role, on the basis of the UN's principles and values. It is important to have the engagement of international and regional organizations in such endeavor to ensure sufficient financial resources to achieve inclusive and resilient recovery in the post-pandemic era.

**Second**, it is essential to improve the effectiveness of multilateral cooperation to accelerate the fight against COVID-19, promote transfer of vaccine production technologies, secure equitable, fair, timely and affordable access to vaccine supplies for all nations, share technologies and promote cooperation in the production of vaccines and treatment drugs. It is also crucial to fully utilize regional cooperation frameworks and initiatives, facilitate market access for businesses and render greater support and assistance to developing countries to fully and timely achieve the sustainable development goals.

**Third**, each country and parliament needs to be proactive in proposing initiatives, and bold in actions, within their mandate, to create the best condition for their respective Governments to timely implement national programs in response to global threats.

Thank you.