

## Remarks

**by H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the 5<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Speakers of Parliament**

*(14.30-16.00, September 7, 2021, Vienna, Austria)*

### ***Panel 2: Mitigating the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on democracy***

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*Excellency President of the National Council of Austria,*

*Excellency President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union,*

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

The Covid-19 pandemic is inflicting serious damage on our planet. And the fact is that we will not be safe from Covid-19 until every country and everyone are safe. The fight against Covid-19 and mitigating its impacts are therefore the global cause.

Viet Nam, in its history and in responding to Covid-19, has always regarded the guideline “people are the root of all things” as the lodestar for all national policies and actions. This is also the mission engraved in the mind of every Vietnamese parliamentarian- the representatives elected by the Vietnamese people. We, as the Vietnamese parliamentarians, must showcase a high sense of responsibility and take strong actions to strengthen the National Assembly of Viet Nam as a united bloc. We will continue to focus on building a strong rule-of-law state for the people’s interest, mitigating the impact of the pandemic and triumphing Covid-19 to promote recovery and national development.

*Ladies and gentlemen,*

During the first outbreak of Covid-19 in Viet Nam in February 2020, the National Steering Committee on Prevention and Fighting against Covid-19 was established. The National Assembly of Viet Nam has played a key role in this Committee and has timely adopted and realized a series of decisions on allocation of national resources and budget. We also put in place a plenty of solutions responding to the pandemic and providing assistance to the businesses and the poor, among others. We are striving to achieve the dual goal “Fighting the pandemic

alongside sustaining economic growth”. We are giving top priorities to the protection of people’s lives and health in spite of any sacrifice of economic benefits. With a view to sustaining people’s livelihoods, we are taking efforts to provide the people with assistance, healthcare and equitable access to vaccine.

Given the widespread hardships due to Covid-19, Viet Nam has persevered with the advancement of social democracy under the auspices of the people. It is noteworthy that we have successfully organized the National Assembly election for the 2021-2026 term in a democratic, open and transparent way in compliance with the laws. During the election, we guaranteed the safety of voters from the pandemic and as a result, turnout rate reached 99.6%. The first session of our National Assembly in July had already elected new leaders, who then immediately started their works.

To mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, I would like to make the proposals as follows:

First, to mitigate the impact and defeat the Covid-19 pandemic, parliaments need to play a leadership role by placing the people at the heart of all national policies on unity, mobilisation of domestic resources and innovation from the people and businesses. Accordingly, it is essential to enhance parliamentary efficiency in terms of legislation, oversight of policy implementation, care of women and girls, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and response to economic instability and return to poverty, which are widespread during the pandemic.

Second, it is critical to share information and experience, enhance parliamentary cooperation in prevention of and combat with Covid-19 in order to mitigate the impact of the pandemic, sustain peace, stability, socio-economic development in every country towards the SDGs-2030 of the United Nations.

Third, given the social distancing against the pandemic, it is imperative to take advantage of the IT, promote transformation for digital economy and expand digitalization of information exchange and interaction between parliamentarians and constituents, enabling the people to actively engage in the state’s work.

Thank you./.