

**Statement by H.E.Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan
President of the National Assembly of Viet Nam
at the General Debate of the 138th IPU General Assembly**

(Geneva, Switzerland, March 25th 2018)

***“Strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees:
the need for evidence-based policy solutions”***

*Madame President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU),
Mr.Secretary General,*

Honorable Speakers,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 138th Assembly of the IPU takes place amid many changes around the globe. Complicated issues that the world is now tackling affect the safety and lives of many people, particularly migrants, of those are women and children.

At present, we are putting efforts to meet the Sustainable Development Goals without leaving anyone behind, following the guiding principle of “turning words into action”. Therefore, it is truly necessary to establish a comprehensive and binding legal framework to protect human dignity, human rights and basic freedoms for migrants, make the most use of their contribution to the development of each respective nation and enrich those countries not only economically but also in terms of culture and knowledge. As such, we highly value the IPU’s unceasing efforts for many years in adopting Programs and Declarations, particularly the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the New York Declaration in September 2016, and most recently the Declaration endorsed by 133rd Assembly in October 2015 on fairer, smarter and more humane migration.

The IPU as the world’s largest inter-parliamentary union should therefore continue taking the lead in enhancing cooperation for development among nations, encourage the participation of member parliaments with a view to reinforcing positive trends, representing and safeguarding the peoples’ interests, tackling challenges and risks, particularly those of migration. On their parts, member

parliaments need to play active roles in building peace and security in the region and the world by asking their governments to resolve disputes and conflicts through peaceful means without resorting to the threat or use of force, in full compliance with international laws to promote peace, stability, prosperity and sustainable development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the process of national development and international integration, Viet Nam always pursues a consistent policy to ensure all people are equal before the law and enables the right to migration and labor mobility with a view to enhancing socio-economic development, exchanges and links between communities, ensuring the right to democracy and contributing to national development. These policies and principles are embodied in the Constitution and related legal documents and guaranteed in practice.

At the international level, Viet Nam supports legal migration, including labor migration, while we also take resolute action to fight against illegal migration, especially human trafficking and transnational crime, to ensure safe migration, protect legitimate rights and interests of migrants at all stages of the migration process, especially in the event of a crisis. As an active and responsible member, Viet Nam stands ready and will remain fully engaged with the international community as part of the global effort to address migration issues corresponding to our level of development, national legislation and international treaties to which Viet Nam is a party, including the building of an UN Global Compact for safe, orderly and regular migration. This has helped showcase Viet Nam's responsibility and commitment to realizing UN programs and activities, especially the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and to promoting peace, stability for national development.

We express our concern about the issue of illegal migrants, especially its adverse impacts on women and children. To resolve migration crisis, it is necessary to strengthen cooperation at the global level along with the active participation and close cooperation among member countries and international organizations. We are of the view that peace and stability are the precondition for economic and social development, the promotion of fundamental rights and well-being of people in each and every country in the world and the key to addressing the current crisis.

With a view to strengthening the global regime for migrants and refugees, I would like to put forward the following recommendations:

First, the international community needs to further maintain peace and stability for sustainable development, prevent the root cause of potential conflicts and disputes, promote an international legal framework in line with other commitments to safeguard the rights and interests of legal migrants, prevent illegal migration, human trafficking and transnational crime.

Second, promote the role of parliaments and parliamentarians in developing and completing legislation, overseeing the implementation of government policies and laws in this area; ensuring equal treatment and equality among all segments of society; making no discrimination or prejudice against immigrants, creating conditions for social inclusion to help them enjoy health care, education, welfare and equal employment opportunities as local residents.

Third, strengthen the monitoring of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda to ensure that no one is left behind. In this process, the IPU, the UN and international organizations have important roles to play in advocating, supporting member parliaments to adopt policy solutions in practice.

Fourth, strengthen dialogue and cooperation to combat extreme violence, terrorism, poverty and social inequality leading to recent migration crises.

Fifth, promote cooperation and partnership among nations, regional and international organizations in the mobilization of resources to support countries most affected by illegal migration and in the delivery of sustainable solutions.

The National Assembly of Viet Nam remains committed to act as a responsible member and work together with the IPU and member Parliaments to implement resolutions and initiatives on the promotion of peace and sustainable development for the benefit and well-being of our peoples.

Thank you Madame President. /.