



**SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM
MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

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Statement

By

**Mr. Nguyen Tat Thanh
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to the United Nations**

on

Procurement Reform

**United Nations, New York
23 October 2006**

Mr. Chairman,

Let me express, on behalf of the delegation of Viet Nam, our high appreciation of your efficient and successful guiding of the work of this important Committee, and the contribution made to this end by all members of the Bureau. My delegation would also like to thank the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) and the Secretariat for their relevant documents, which certainly will help facilitate our deliberations.

The delegation of Viet Nam aligns itself with the statement made by the delegate of South Africa, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. We would therefore limit our comments on a couple of points of particular interest to our delegation.

Mr. Chairman,

Given the unprecedented increase in UN peace keeping operations worldwide, the procurement level of our Organization has expanded considerably over the past few years, and has attracted more and more attention from the public at large. In our Organization, procurement has long been high on the agenda not only of this Committee, but also of the General Assembly.

Taking into account the importance of the issue, my delegation would like to welcome the Report last June by the Secretary-General entitled *Investing in the United Nations: for a stronger Organization worldwide: detailed report on procurement reform (A/60/846/Add.5)*. In particular, we strongly support various measures being taken by the Secretariat to strengthen internal control in the areas of ethics and integrity, management and staff, governance, and information systems.

With regard to procurement processes, however, we agree with the ACABQ's assessment that the process in general remains unduly slow and involves duplicative steps. We thus would urge more concerted efforts by the Secretariat to further streamline and simplify all the related procedures, taking into account best practices worldwide, with a view to enhancing transparency and raising efficiency of the whole process. In particular, we would recommend concrete measures by the Secretariat to reduce the operational workload for businesses from developing countries, especially those small- and medium-sized enterprises, who have limited experience as well as resources compared to their counterparts in developed countries.

Mr. Chairman,

Related to this issue, my delegation would also like to take note that, in conformance with relevant Resolutions of the General Assembly, increasing procurement opportunities and participation of vendors from developing countries has become more of a priority for the Secretariat. However, we note with concern that the share of developing countries and economies in transition in the total value of procurement by the Organization has remained almost unchanged since 2001 at just over 40%. This has been such a disappointment to the developing countries, whose overall competitiveness has improved substantially over the same period of time. In order to ensure really fair opportunities for vendors from developing countries, we would like to suggest that the Secretariat pay more attention, and earmark more resources, to capacity building projects in developing countries, such as holding business seminars on the procurement process and dissemination of procurement information in local languages.

We believe that improvements in these important areas would contribute to bettering the image of our Organization in general.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.