

**Statement by the Delegation of Vietnam at
the 1st International Space Forum at Ministerial Level
October 24th, 2016 – Trento (Italy)**

**Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing:
Challenges and Contribution of Space**

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

- 1) On behalf of the Delegation of Vietnam, I am pleased to see you chairing the 1st International Space Forum at Ministerial Level. With your leadership and the excellent cooperation of delegations, we strongly believe that the Forum will deliver on remarkable outcomes.
- 2) We also thank the International Astronautical Federal (IAF), the International Academy of Astronautics (IAA), and the Italian Space Agency (ISA) for the efforts to organize this important forum, and look forward to your kind support to our country in the near future.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

- 3) As you may know, Vietnam is a Southeast Asian country with population of more than 90 millions, land of more than 330 thousand square kilometers, and in particular coastline of about 3400 kilometers. As a result of several land reform measures, Vietnam has become a major exporter of agricultural products, in which fishery products play an important role to the development of the country. However, as the matter of fact, the issue of Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing has become an untraditional challenge and has been affected to the development of socio-economy of Vietnam. And I do believe that not only Vietnam has been facing to this problem.
- 4) By recognizing this issue, with the collaboration from across departments and agencies of United States of America, we have successfully organized two workshops under the title “Civil Maritime Domain Awareness – CMDA”, one in December 2015 and another in September 2016, focusing on the use of space for MDA. The value brought by space-based assets, such as earth observation satellites, enhances international cooperation on the use of the maritime commons, including the freedom of navigation, free flow of commerce, the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), protection of the environment and natural resources, and preventing IUU fishing and wildlife trafficking.
- 5) Both sides agreed in principle to further explore United States - Vietnam information sharing and research collaboration on CMDA and discussed

possible new mechanisms for expanded cooperation. It was agreed that building a foundation of knowledge and experience regarding the use of space for MDA would assist the Government of Vietnam in establishing policy and an architecture for inter-ministerial and international information sharing.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

- 6) In order to foster the activities of research and applications of space technology, to strengthen the significant contribution of space technology to the socio-economic development of Vietnam, the Prime Minister of Vietnam approved the National Strategy for Research and Application of Space Technology up to the Year 2020 by issuing the Decision numbered 137/2006/QĐ-TTg on June 14th, 2006.
- 7) In the strategy, the national legislation, research and development of application of space technology have been the most important missions. In particular, the National Key Program on Research and Development of Application of Space Technology in Vietnam has been conducted since 2008.
- 8) In the framework of the above-mentioned Program, the United States and Vietnam sides agreed that the framework and the pilot project will define CMDA III in 2017. The collaboration within Vietnam will be coordinated by Ministry of Science and Technology and executed in the academic and government research communities. The United States collaboration will be coordinated through the Department of State and the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory.

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

- 9) To conclude, on behalf of the delegation, I would like to express Vietnam's commitment to and support of the work of this Forum. We hope at this Forum, there will be remarkable outcomes, in particular the delivery of a Space Declaration in which the issue of IUU fishing should be noted with the contribution of space technology.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and distinguished delegates, for your kind attention.