

## **CLOSING SPEECH BY H.E MINISTER AT THE HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON UN SOCIAL PROTECTION FLOOR INITIATIVE**

**(on 14 October 2010 at Melia Hotel)**

H.E. Michelle Bachalet, Chair of Social Protection Floor (SPF) Advisory Group,

H.E. John Hendra, UN Coordinator in Vietnam,

Distinguished Ambassadors, Leaders and Representatives from international organizations and development cooperation agencies in Vietnam,

Distinguished Leaders and Representatives from ministries, agencies and social organizations in Vietnam,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After 2 hours discussions, we have now come to the final session with much useful information gained on the Vietnamese experience in social protection and the basic elements of the UN Social Protection Floor initiative.

On behalf of organizations and agencies from the Viet Nam side, I would like to express our highly appreciation to Madam Bachalet and UN senior advisory team for their comprehensive presentations and explanations on the basic contents of the SPF initiative.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Through our discussions it is understood that social protection floor is a social and economic necessity. Investing in a SPF is investing in social justice and economic development. Social protection contributes to economic growth by raising labour productivity, and enhancing social stability and hunger eradication and poverty elimination.

The Social Protection Floor includes:

- A basic set of essential social rights and transfers to provide a minimum income and livelihood security for all and to facilitate effective demand for and access to essential goods and services.
- The supply of an essential level of goods and social services such as health, water and sanitation, education, food, housing, life and asset-saving information that are accessible for all.

Each country is facing different circumstances, social needs and fiscal constraints and will choose a distinct set of policies to achieve its development objectives. However, the coordination between relevant government agencies, the participation of social stakeholders and particularly the involvement of beneficiaries in planning and implementing policies is pre-conditional to ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of the policies. At the same time, the technical support from international organizations and regional and the global cooperation is necessary to be successful.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The information gained from the discussions today is very useful basis for Vietnamese policy makers and specialists continue their study and research for the purpose of experience exchange during the course of development and implementation of the Social Protection Strategy for period 2011-2020 and Social Protection Project for period 2011-2015 in Vietnam and to consider a proposal of participation to this important initiative in coming time.

Once again, I would like to thank Madam Bachalet and her colleagues from UN agencies, thank distinguished participants for your valuable contribution to the forum. My thanks also goes to the UN Resident Coordinator Office and particularly to ILO Office in Vietnam for their effective cooperation in arranging this meeting as well as the whole mission program.

Before closing, I would like to wish Madam Bachalet and UN senior advisory team successful working visit and nice stay in Vietnam. I wish all participants good health and happiness.

Thank you.