



**PERMANENT MISSION OF THE
SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**
TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE,
WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA

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The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. Further to its Note Verbale No. 205/VNM.21 dated 20 December 2021 which requests an extension of the deadline for providing a response to the Joint Urgent Appeal from the Special Procedures dated 25 October 2021 Ref. AU VNM 5/2021 concerning the human rights abuses perpetrated against a group of Vietnamese women and girls who are victims of trafficking, the Mission has the honour to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam to the above-mentioned Joint Urgent Appeal.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations Office, the World Trade Organization and other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Special Procedures Branch of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights the assurances of its highest consideration.



Special Procedures Branch
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
GENEVA

Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Urgent Appeal from the Special Procedures concerning the human rights abuses perpetrated against a group of Vietnamese women and girls who are victims of trafficking

Ref. AU VNM 5/2021 (dated 25 October 2021)

- Viet Nam always prioritizes promoting gender equality, narrowing gender gap in order to create conditions for men and women to enjoy equality in the areas of the social life, contributing to the sustainable development of the country. At the same time, Viet Nam has also been implementing measures to protect female workers, combat domestic violence and sexual harassment at workplace, and prevent child labour through promulgating laws and policies such as the Labour Code and the Children Law. Viet Nam has acceded to 25 conventions of the International Labour Organization, including 7 out of 8 fundamental conventions, including those regarding discrimination, forced labour and child labour. Viet Nam is the first country in Asia and the second country in the world ratifying the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

- Sending Vietnamese workers to work abroad under contract was conducted in accordance with Viet Nam's regulations in this field, including the Law on Vietnamese Workers Working Abroad under Contract of 2020 and elaboration documents such as Decrees of the Government, Decisions of the Prime Minister, Circulars of Ministries, and Government Agencies. The Law on Vietnamese Workers Working Abroad under Contract of 2020 supplements many provisions in order to protect the rights and interests of workers, prohibit recruiting workers to conduct human trafficking, labour abuse and forced labour. Any violation will be dealt with according to legal provisions. In 2020, 32 out of 86 enterprises were examined, inspected and penalized for administrative violations, and operating licenses of 06 enterprises were revoked.

- In preventing and combatting cross-border human trafficking, international cooperation plays an important role in preventing and dealing with networks of human trafficking. Viet Nam has been cooperated closely with countries, including Saudi Arabia, to prevent and deal with human trafficking cases concerning Vietnamese citizens. This is one of Viet Nam's main missions in the Program on human trafficking prevention and combat during 2021-2025, with orientations toward 2030 approved by the Prime Minister in February 2021.

- Viet Nam is very interested in the issues mentioned in the Joint Urgent Appeal and is continuing to verify. Viet Nam's competent authorities, including Viet Nam's Embassy and Labour Management Unit in Saudi Arabia, has coordinated with the authorities of Saudi Arabia and labour supply enterprises to collect the information on executing labour contracts, working conditions, salary, health and workers' aspiration and, to find the solutions to disputes with employers, and to guarantee the safety and legitimate rights for Vietnamese workers in Saudi Arabia, particularly workers in vulnerable groups such as female workers.

- In the context of complicated developments of the Covid-19 pandemic, from September to December 2021, Viet Nam organized flights to bring more than one thousand Vietnamese workers who wish to come back to Viet Nam and face difficulties back to Viet Nam, including Vietnamese workers mentioned in the Joint Urgent Appeal. Regarding the case of Siu H Xuan who died, through initial verification, she died because of her severe illness although she received the whole-hearted care. Her death is regrettable and unwanted. Viet Nam's competent authorities is continuing to coordinate with the authorities of Saudi Arabia to investigate in order to clarify the cause of her death and make relevant arrangements regarding her death in compliance with the laws and culture of Viet Nam and Saudi Arabia. Viet Nam's competent authorities are investigating and verifying the information in her personal documents. In case any violation is found, Viet Nam will deal with strictly in accordance with legal provisions to ensure her legitimate rights and benefits.

- According to Viet Nam's laws, Vietnamese citizens classified as victims of human trafficking enjoy six support regimes including support of essential needs and travel expenses; medical support: psychological support; legal aid; support in general education and vocational training: initial difficulty allowance, support in loan borrowing. The purpose of the support regimes above-mentioned is to help human trafficking victims to overcome the trauma of human trafficking and reintegrate into the community without requesting them to cooperate during the legal proceedings.

- Viet Nam's laws do not punish trafficked persons for any unlawful activity carried out by trafficked persons as a direct consequence of their trafficking situations. Every legitimate rights and benefits of trafficked persons are respected and protected without differentiation and discrimination, and trafficked persons will receive the assistance for physical and mental recovery

and reintegration.

- Viet Nam's competent authorities have assisted Vietnamese female workers coming back from Saudi Arabia so that they can go home safely and in consistence with the measures of preventing and combating Covid-19. With regards to the workers above-mentioned, labour supply enterprises will take into account personal situations in order to provide them with necessary assistance and help them to quickly settle down through using money from the labour supply enterprises, the Government's Fund for Overseas Employment or any other lawful source./.