



**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 and has the honor to hereby transmit the reply of Viet Nam to the latter's Joint Communication AL VNM 6/2025 (dated 30 September 2025) concerning Samsung Electronics' chemical management and environmental pollution in its operation in Viet Nam.

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./.



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**Reply of Viet Nam to the Joint Communication concerning
Samsung Electronics' chemical management and environmental
pollution in its operation in Viet Nam.**

Ref. AL VNM 6/2025 (dated 30 September 2025)

1. The Government of Viet Nam takes note of the allegations raised and appreciates the opportunity to provide information and clarification. Viet Nam remains committed to constructive dialogue and cooperation with Special Procedures, in accordance with its international human rights obligations. Regarding the content of the Joint Communication, the Government of Viet Nam notes that several allegations contained in the communication appear to be based on incomplete, unverified or outdated information and do not accurately reflect the situation on the ground.

2. Viet Nam's consistent and overarching position is to place people at the center, as both the subject, the driving force, and the ultimate goal of all development policies. Pursuing a sustainable development strategy, Viet Nam remains steadfast in prioritizing environmental protection as one of the top priorities in its economic and social development policies, firmly rejecting the trade-off of environmental protection for purely economic growth. This approach has been concretized through numerous policies and guidelines of the Party and the State of Viet Nam in recent years.

3. In the context of globalization and development, Viet Nam recognizes the important role of multinational corporations in socio-economic development. However, it emphasizes that the operations of multinational corporations must comply with Vietnamese law and integrate business and production activities with environmental protection, green growth, and sustainable development. Viet Nam has established a clear legal framework to ensure a balance of the legitimate rights and interests of all parties, consistently prioritizing environmental protection, green growth, and sustainable development over short-term economic gains.

4. Article 63 of the 2013 Constitution of Viet Nam stipulates that: "Organizations and individuals that cause environmental pollution, depletion of natural resources, and loss of biodiversity shall be strictly sanctioned and shall be responsible for remediation and compensation for damage." Viet Nam has also promulgated the Law on Environmental Protection (2020) and other legal instruments to establish a clear legal framework defining the responsibilities of organizations and individuals in environmental protection, pollution mitigation, and

natural resource conservation, as well as inspection and monitoring mechanisms and safeguards for the right to lodge complaints and denunciations. On 13 April 2022, the Government issued Decision No. 450/QĐ-TTg approving the National Environmental Protection Strategy to 2030, with a vision to 2050. The overall objective of the Strategy is to curb increasing pollution and environmental degradation, halt biodiversity loss, enhance proactive climate change response capacity, ensure environmental security, and promote circular, green, and low-carbon economic models.

5. In addition to establishing a clear legal framework, Vietnamese competent authorities have conducted regular and ad hoc inspections to ensure that companies and enterprises comply with environmental protection regulations. All violations are sanctioned and remedial measures are required under the supervision of relevant authorities.

6. As the core force responsible for safeguarding national security and social order, the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam strictly fulfills its legally mandated functions and responsibilities in monitoring, detecting, and strictly handling violations of law by multinational corporations and related organizations and individuals concerning environmental protection and labor rights; protecting the lives, property, and legitimate complaint rights of the people; ensuring that there is absolutely no shielding of violations committed by multinational corporations; and maintaining a healthy investment environment by preventing incitement, public disorder, and the dissemination of false information that could adversely affect lawful business operations and the legitimate interests of enterprises.

7. All Samsung factories in Viet Nam operate standard-compliant wastewater treatment systems and discharge treated wastewater into the centralized wastewater treatment systems of industrial zone operators (Yen Phong Industrial Park – Bac Ninh Province and Yen Binh Industrial Park – Thai Nguyen Province). They have established designated areas for waste collection and management and installed air emission treatment systems in accordance with the law. Wastewater treatment primarily employs physico-chemical and biological methods, with fully automated systems ensuring that treated wastewater meets legal standards before discharge into receiving environments.

Regarding air emissions, Samsung factories operate appropriate treatment equipment for each emission source. Post-treatment emissions meet national technical standards for industrial air emissions (QCVN 19:2009/BTNMT and

QCVN 20:2009/BTNMT). To date, no complaints or reports from local residents regarding environmental pollution from discharges have been recorded.

For Samsung Electronics Viet Nam Co., Ltd. located in Yen Phong Industrial Park 1, Bac Ninh Province, the former Vietnam Environment Administration (now the Department of Environment) conducted five inspections of compliance with environmental protection laws between 2011 and 2020 and issued inspection conclusions. Inspection Conclusion No. 536/KLTTr-TCMT dated 20 October 2011 identified certain shortcomings in waste management. Inspection Conclusion No. 736/KL-TCMT dated 16 November 2017 found that some exhaust outlets did not meet technical requirements for emissions sampling. According to Inspection Conclusion No. 262/KL-TCMT dated 25 December 2020, the company had remedied all previously identified violations, and no new violations were detected.

For Samsung Display Viet Nam Co., Ltd. in Yen Phong Industrial Park 1, Bac Ninh Province, Inspection Conclusion No. 732/KL-TCMT dated 16 November 2017 confirmed full compliance with environmental protection laws.

For Samsung Electronics Viet Nam Thai Nguyen Co., Ltd. in Yen Binh Industrial Park, Thai Nguyen Province, four inspections were conducted between 2015 and 2023, with Inspection Conclusions No. 504/KLKT-TCMT (24 April 2015), No. 07/KL-TCMT (2 January 2018), No. 15/KL-TCMT (9 January 2021), and Inspection Result Notice No. 49/TB-KSONMT (4 July 2023), all confirming no violations.

For Samsung Electro-Mechanics Viet Nam Co., Ltd., an inspection conducted in 2023 resulted in Inspection Result Notice No. 47/TB-KSONMT dated 4 July 2023, confirming no violations of environmental protection laws.

8. Since commencing operations, Samsung factories in Bac Ninh and Thai Nguyen provinces have complied with laws and local regulations. Samsung regularly conducts annual occupational environmental monitoring, including temperature, humidity, airflow, vibration, noise, dust, and toxic gases. All monitoring indicators meet permissible legal standards and are publicly communicated to employees. Working conditions are stable and continuously improved, including measures to reduce odors, dust, and noise. Salaries and benefits are among the most competitive, with extensive support such as free dormitories for workers from distant areas, housing allowances, and three free meals per day. No strikes, work stoppages, or labor complaints regarding working conditions have been recorded.

9. Samsung Group has undertaken various community and social responsibility activities, including the “Samsung Hope School” project supporting education and development for disadvantaged children in Bac Ninh and Thai Nguyen provinces; the “Leaves of Love” program supporting employees and disadvantaged individuals; donations and assistance for disaster relief, flood recovery, and COVID-19 response; voluntary blood donation campaigns; and mobile smart library initiatives for communities.

10. Regarding freedom of association in Viet Nam, State policies and laws consistently recognize, respect, and ensure fundamental human rights, including freedom of expression, opinion, and assembly. Article 25 of the 2013 Constitution stipulates that “Citizens have the right to freedom of expression, freedom of the press, access to information, assembly, association, and demonstration.” The exercise of these rights is accompanied by responsibilities and may only be restricted by law when necessary, in accordance with Article 14 of the Constitution. Vietnamese law is fully consistent with international law and the ICCPR.

The Government promulgated Decree No. 126/2024/ND-CP dated 8 October 2024 on the organization, operation, and management of associations (replacing Decree No. 45/2010/ND-CP dated 21 April 2010) to facilitate the exercise of the right to association. As of April 2025, Viet Nam has 70,096 registered associations, including 609 operating nationwide or inter-provincially and 69,487 operating locally, not including a large number of informal community groups.

11. With regard to labor standards and working conditions, Vietnamese law clearly and publicly regulates labor standards to safeguard the legitimate rights and interests of workers, including female workers. Viet Nam has issued a list of occupations and jobs that may adversely affect reproductive functions for both female and male workers, ensuring transparency in labor management and protection of reproductive health and occupational safety.

Allegations raised in the joint communication concerning differential impacts on the health and working conditions of female workers at Samsung are unverified. The Ministry of Home Affairs, responsible for state management of gender equality and labor nationwide, has confirmed that it has received no complaints from female workers at Samsung factories regarding working conditions or health impacts.

12. The trade union at Samsung Electronics was established in 2014. The Executive Committee consists of 17 members, including one full-time trade union official, and 100% of workers are union members.

The grassroots trade union regularly conducts dialogue with the employer, including twice-yearly formal dialogues (exceeding the legal minimum of once per year). Additionally, weekly exchanges take place between the union and human resources department to address labor-related issues and workers' interests.

13. Viet Nam remains open to continued dialogue and cooperation with Special Procedures mandate holders and stands ready to provide additional information, should this be required./.