

SPEECH
BY H.E. MR. NGUYEN DZY NIEN,
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
HEAD OF THE VIETNAM DELEGATION

AT THE SECOND SOUTH SUMMIT
Doha, Qatar, 15-16 June 2005

Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Excellencies Heads of States and Governments,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, I would like to express my sincere thanks and deep gratitude to the Organizing Committee and the State of Qatar for their excellent preparation for the second South Summit in the beautiful City of Doha. It is my great honour to attend this important Summit to share with you the development challenges facing the South and how to deal effectively with these challenges individually and collectively. I also join the previous speakers in congratulating Mr. Chairman and other members of the Bureau. I do believe that under your wise guidance, our Summit will be a great success.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the past five years since the first South Summit, South countries have spared no effort to boost their cooperation and harvested encouraging achievements. Under the South-South cooperation framework, joint programs, actions, and projects have been undertaken. However, due to various reasons, the South-South cooperation still falls short of our expectation.

Despite enormous achievements in poverty reduction in a few developing countries, the majority of the South nations remain poor and underdeveloped. Many of us are facing the risk of further lagging behind and being marginalized from the overall development trend of the world. The development gap has been widened, not only between the North and the South but also within the South and among different parts of a country. Despite our efforts, the Millennium Development Goals are unlikely to be achieved due to lack of resources. Poverty, infectious diseases, and development gap are still real challenges and a fertile ground for other threats, including socio-economic and political instability. Besides, non-traditional security issues such as tsunamis, bird flu, deforestation, etc have

caused serious negative impacts on several developing countries over the last few years, adding more difficulties to their development.

Trade liberalization itself is not an end-goal but a means for economic development. However, the current multilateral trade system is still not responsive to the needs of developing countries. Furthermore, a number of developing nations are still subject to coercive economic measures and unilateral sanctions, which lead to declining terms of trade and widening development gap. The principles of preferential and differential treatment towards developing and least developed economies under WTO have not been fully and seriously undertaken in practice. Moreover, developing countries in negotiation for WTO accession are even forced to accept tougher commitments and obligations.

I fully share with recommendations and proposals that have been made by other Heads of Delegation and by the Ministerial Meeting, and would like to make following suggestions:

First, South countries should join efforts to expand cooperation, both bilaterally and within the multilateral framework, to better respond to the challenges. In this regards, I would like to propose that the South countries should cooperate to protect themselves against non-traditional security threats, either in South-South cooperation framework or in 2+1 formula. A concret agenda for cooperation in this field should later be worked out by our officials and experts.

Second, it is crucial for us to take a collective stance through a closer coordination in global and regional fora to make multilateral economic and social negotiations responsive to the needs of developing countries.

Third, it is urgent to redouble our efforts to make full use of available internal resources and international assistance. Once again at this Summit, we would like to call on developed countries and international organizations to provide much greater assistance to the South so as to promote sustainable development and to bridge the development gap through, *inter alia*, (i) aligning their assistance into MDGs-based national strategies of South countries; (ii) improving market access with more preferential treatment for South nations; and (iii) facilitating WTO's accession of developing countries.

Fourth, the tripartite cooperation formula "2+1" should be brought into full use and replicated to further promote exchange of experience and expertise among ourselves in such fields as agricultural development, poverty reduction, health care, education, etc...

*Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

Aware of the importance of the South-South cooperation, Vietnam has for long played an active role in the development of the South. Cooperation

between Vietnam and South countries has been increasingly deepened at different levels. At the first South Summit, Vietnam proposed a "2 + 1" cooperation formula, under which Vietnam is currently cooperating with African countries in more than ten agricultural projects financed by international donors such as UNDP, FAO and some developed countries.

Vietnam is now realizing its commitments to trade liberalization under AFTA by 2006 and ASEAN-China Free Trade Area. Cooperation with Mekong river riparian countries, namely China, Thailand, Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia, under the sub-regional frameworks such as Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), West-East Corridor (WEC), ASEAN Mekong Basin Development Cooperation (AMBDC) and other programs has also been strongly expanded. The Development Triangle between Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam has been established to promote economic growth, poverty reduction, and narrow development gap.

Over nearly two decades of carrying out reform (*Doi Moi*), Vietnam has recorded important achievements in the socio-economic development and poverty reduction. In this regard, we are grateful to the active and effective support and assistance of the international community, including South countries. For our part, Vietnam is ready to share our development experience with other developing countries through, *inter alia*, the "2 + 1" formula with the view to boost the South- South cooperation. As a member of the South, we look forward to the continued support and assistance from South countries in the international economic integration process, especially our accession to WTO.

Distinguished Delegates,

Despite numerous challenges on the road ahead, I am convinced that with our determination, cooperation between and among South countries will have a bright future.

Thank you for your attention.