Dear Chairman,

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to the chairman and the delegates attending the 25-years Ministerial Conference of the Beijing Platform for Action. Today we gather again to review our work, our achievements in gender equality and the advancement of women and come up with effective measures to further promote the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action in the coming years.

Dear Chairman,

1. Over the past 25 years, the Government of Vietnam has been determined to realize the objectives of the Beijing Platform for Action and other international commitments on gender equality. Viet Nam have made extended efforts to minimize the discriminatory regulations for both women and men. Notably, the revised Labor Code was just passed by the National Assembly of Vietnam in mid-November with many progressive contents on gender equality, such as narrowing the gender gap in the retirement age from 5 to only 2 years. The new Labor Code has also supplemented the definition of sexual harassment at the workplace and regulate the prevention and control of the matter. In addition, the National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2010-2020 period, as well as the national programs on gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence has been effectively implemented nationwide. The active participation of all levels of government and socio-political organizations has yielded encouraging results.
2. These efforts and determination have significantly improved the role and status of Vietnamese women. The rate of women members in the National Assembly is 27% and has always been high in the Asia-Pacific region. For the first time, Vietnam has a National Assembly Chairwoman. Vietnamese women make up 47.8% of the country's labor force, the labor force participation rate of female workers was 71.2% and the percentage of enterprises owned by women is 26.5%. More and more outstanding female businesswomen and CEOs of Vietnam are recognized by the world economic forums and honored as powerful businesswomen in Asia – Pacific.

In addition, the gender gap is narrowed at in all education levels and almost eliminated preschool and primary education; the sex ratio at birth in Viet Nam is under control, and the health care system for women, including for the ethnic minority, has been strengthened.

3. From our experience, Viet Nam believes that to make progress on gender equality, it is important to have a common perception that economic development must go along with social progress. In addition, gender equality issues need to be integrated with state management and initiatives at all levels and fields.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Despite encouraging results, like other countries, Vietnam is facing challenges in this process. The persisting social norms on the roles of men and women, the male-centered ideology, incomplete gender disaggregated statistics and limited resources for gender equality, all of these have been causing difficulties in designing gender-inclusive policies and interventions. Many issues such as violence against women and girls and negative impacts of climate change on the lives of women and children also need to be addressed. Therefore, we still need to continue our strong political determination, our strategic solutions and our spirit of international cooperation to strive for gender quality.

5. To maintain the achievements and promoting more gender equality initiatives, Viet Nam is determined to implement the measures in the 25-year National Report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.
Viet Nam look forward to the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda so that no one will be left behind, and will continue to strengthen partnerships with stakeholders, including UN agencies to maximize the results on gender equality and advancement of women.

I would like to wish you good health and happiness and wish our Conference a great success.

Thank you!