

REMARKS

BY DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ANH DUNG AT THE CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINING SUPPORT FOR THE ROHINGYA RESPONSE

Co-Convenors,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We have been going through a challenging time as the fight against COVID-19 is still ongoing across the world.

However, this also demonstrates that solidarity, cooperation, and shared responsibility are fundamental for effectively responding to newly-emerging and long-existing issues.

At this Conference today, let me first express Viet Nam's acknowledgement and support for continuous efforts by Myanmar, Bangladesh as well as the international community in resolving the issue on the basis of the principle of respect for independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of each country and the primary role of parties concerned.

Viet Nam stays ready to continue supporting stakeholders to promote dialogue and seek durable and sustainable measures based on burden and responsibility sharing as well as a balanced, inclusive, multi-dimensional and comprehensive approach.

This is a process that requires mutual sympathy, reconciliation and mutual assistance among countries concerned, as well as support by international community, while ensuring a full understanding of country-specific circumstances and sensitive issues. In this process, regional mechanisms play a very important role, especially ASEAN.

ASEAN, with its central role, has worked to foster dialogue, build trust among parties, support Myanmar in providing humanitarian assistance, facilitate the repatriation process, and promote sustainable development. ASEAN completed the Preliminary Needs Assessment (PNA), is currently implementing recommendations of the PNA under the coordination efforts of the Secretary-General of ASEAN to prepare for the conduct of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment when appropriate.

Therefore, it is necessary to promote cooperation between ASEAN and other interested partners, especially the United Nations, in order to take advantage of experience and strength of each other in responding to this issue.

Amid the complicated Covid-19 pandemic, we realize more clearly that the most important and urgent response to the issue is to provide assistance to affected communities for recovery and rebuilding of their lives. Viet Nam also supported Myanmar and Bangladesh in Covid-19 prevention and control (through

providing medical supplies) with belief that the two countries will quickly overcome the hard times and continue to work closely with each other and also with other stakeholders concerned to gradually resolve this issue.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced migration flows, but the risk of irregular migration and human smuggling still remains high and even becomes difficult to control. Therefore, it is crucial to strengthen international cooperation for equitable and sustainable development among countries and regions, contributing to solving the root causes of this issue. This is extremely necessary at a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has deepened the gap between rich and poor and slowed down the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals globally.

In that spirit, Vietnam hopes that all stakeholders will continue to work together closely and actively on this matter, towards long-term and sustainable solutions to address the root causes of the conflict, promote harmony and reconciliation among the various communities, and ensure sustainable and equitable development, for the interests of the countries concerned as well as for the regional stability.

Any response to the issue must be based on mutual understanding, sympathy and assistance, while ensuring the principle of respect for State independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, and engaging regional organizations and existing mechanisms in the region.

I thank you./.