

STATEMENT BY
H.E. AMBASSADOR PHAM QUOC TRU
at the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur in the Field
of Cultural Rights
(11 March 2015)

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to thank Ms Farida Shaheed for the presentation of her report which constitutes a remarkable contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council in the field of cultural rights.

We appreciate the work done by the Special Rapporteur and particularly her visit to Viet Nam in November 2013. This visit offered an excellent opportunity for the Government of Viet Nam and the SR to conduct open and fruitful dialogues on the realization of cultural rights in Viet Nam. We are very much encouraged by many fair and positive assessments in her report, which recognizes Viet Nam's "remarkable progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and realizing a range of economic, social and cultural rights". We are thankful to the SR not only for those encouraging assessments but also for many of her recommendations.

However, we are equally concerned about some inaccurate observations and inappropriate recommendations made by the Special Rapporteur in her report. We understand that given a short visit and an intensive agenda, it was a challenge for her to have a comprehensive picture of cultural diverse practices in Viet Nam. We, therefore, submitted our comments and clarifications as contained in the document A/HRC/28/57/Add.2.

Mr. President,

The protection and promotion of all human rights and freedoms, including cultural rights, is enshrined in our Constitution and laws, and also incorporated in our Government's policies and development plans. Along with remarkable endeavors in economic development over the last decades, much focus has been placed on ensuring the enjoyment of cultural rights of our people, including facilitating space for artistic creativity, encouraging new art forms such as performing arts, installation arts, contemporary dance and physical theater. Additionally, having allocated handsome resources, the Government spared no efforts in protecting and preserving traditional arts of different ethnic groups and their languages, with a strong belief that cultural diversity enriches the country and consolidates traditional harmony in Vietnamese society. We are proud and honored that some forms of traditional arts, belonging to different ethnic groups and different regions in the country, are recognized by UNESCO as the world heritages.

Being aware that there's more work to be done to ensure the better enjoyment of cultural rights for our people, we have been making further efforts to improve our legislation related to cultural rights, and particularly to raise public awareness in this field, *inter alia*.

Mr. President,

The Government of Viet Nam is willing to further exchange views and cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in the Field of Cultural Rights in any framework within her mandate on issues related to Viet Nam, or on other issues to which Viet Nam may contribute.

I thank you, Mr. President.