

JOINT PRESS RELEASE
ON THE BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN
VICE PRESIDENT OF THE S.R. OF VIET NAM H.E. VO THI ANH XUAN
AND PRIME MINISTER OF THE KINGDOM OF NORWAY H.E. JONAS GAHR STØRE

1. At the invitation of H.E Mr. Jonas Gahr Støre, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway, H.E Ms Vo Thi Anh Xuan, Vice President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam paid an official visit to Norway from 23 – 25 November 2023. The visit demonstrated the strong commitment of both sides to advance their long-term friendship and multifaceted cooperation. Both sides affirmed that they would deepen political cooperation by promoting and exchanging regular high-level visits and strengthening existing bilateral cooperation mechanisms.

2. The two sides discussed the possibility of establishing strategic cooperation in the areas of green energy transition and sustainable ocean economy. This strategic cooperation will create new opportunities and provide a framework for both sides to enhance collaboration related to renewable energy, circular economy and blue economy activities.

3. Both sides emphasized the need to accelerate the negotiation process for a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between Viet Nam and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), aimed at creating conditions for strengthening and promoting trade and investments collaboration. The two sides also agreed that the strengthening of economic ties would expand opportunities for, and bring benefits to, the business sectors in both Viet Nam and Norway alike, thereby contributing to economic development and promoting the well-being of the people of both countries.

4. Both sides underscored the importance of cooperation under the Just Energy Transition Partnership (JETP), recognizing the role of the partnership in enhancing the bilateral relationship. Cooperation in the fields of fishery, education, culture, science and technology, protection of children, gender equality as well as defense and security were also highlighted.

5. Both sides acknowledged the role of the Vietnamese community in forging friendship and cooperation between the two countries; and in strengthening people-to-people contact between the two nations.

6. Both sides exchanged views on key global and regional developments and stressed the importance of finding peaceful solutions to disputes in accordance with the universally recognized principles of international law including the UN Charter.

7. Both sides reached the consensus on the content of an Agreement on visa exemption for diplomatic passport holders between the Socialist Republic

of Viet Nam and the Kingdom of Norway and reaffirmed their commitment to sign the Agreement in the foreseeable future.

8. Both sides welcomed the significant development of bilateral relations between the two countries in recent years, and expressed their firm intention to further strengthen and expand these relations. They voiced their satisfaction with the significant outcomes of the visit, which has been an important step in furthering the friendship and cooperation between Viet Nam and Norway.