

## **Joint Communiqué**

At the invitation of H.E. Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, H.E. Ms. Erna Solberg, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Norway paid an official visit to Viet Nam from 17 to 18 April 2015.

During the visit, Prime Minister Erna Solberg held talks with Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, and paid courtesy calls to State President Truong Tan Sang and President of the National Assembly Nguyen Sinh Hung. Prime Minister Erna Solberg also visited the Lao Cai province, to learn about the implementation of education and health projects administered by UNICEF.

1. At the bilateral talks, Prime Minister Erna Solberg and Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung expressed their appreciation of more than 40 years of diplomatic relations between Viet Nam and Norway and the two countries' long-lasting friendship and good cooperation. They informed each other about the current situation in Viet Nam and Norway and reviewed the Viet Nam - Norway relations, and agreed to further strengthen the relations through developing a framework for partnership in commensurate with the cooperation priorities of the two countries in the future.
2. Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung expressed his appreciation for the current economic growth in Norway. Prime Minister Erna Solberg congratulated Viet Nam on the country's impressive poverty reduction results and progress on the Millennium Development goals (MDGs). The two leaders agreed on the need to accelerate efforts to reach the remaining MDGs and strengthen the two countries' cooperation on the global post 2015 development agenda.
3. The Prime Ministers welcomed the growing economic ties between Viet Nam and Norway and agreed to continue efforts to expand cooperation within business, investments and trade. Norway and Viet Nam's main sectors of economic activities are highly compatible, and the maritime, marine and energy sectors are all of great potential for enhanced bilateral cooperation. The two leaders affirmed their Governments' commitment to an early conclusion of a comprehensive and high quality free trade agreement between Viet Nam and EFTA.
4. The Prime Ministers agreed to continue the exchange of visits, especially high-level ones to discuss issues of mutual interest. They also agreed to continue holding periodic political consultations and to continue the dialogue on human rights between Viet Nam and Norway. The Prime Ministers discussed the importance of international law mechanisms, including the role of the UN Human Rights Council in protecting and promoting human rights.

5. The two Prime Ministers discussed the significant action being taken by many countries to tackle climate change and their commitment to exploring ways of collaborating in global negotiations to attain the goal of a legally binding global agreement. The two leaders further stressed the importance of global efforts to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries (REDD+). Norway and Viet Nam will continue to collaborate on reducing emissions from the forest sector through the UN-REDD program in Viet Nam.
6. The Prime Ministers agreed to enhance the two countries's cooperation at regional and multilateral fora. In this spirit, they expressed their appreciation of the adoption of the Joint Statement on ASEAN – Norway Partnership at the 47<sup>th</sup> AMM meeting in August 2014 and acknowledged the potential for increased cooperation that a formalized Norwegian partnership with ASEAN will provide.
7. The Prime Ministers also discussed regional and international issues of mutual concern. Viet Nam and Norway share a commitment to a fair, just and rules-based international society based on a multilateral system with the UN playing a central role in addressing international issues through dialogue and consultations in accordance with the UN Charter and international law. The Prime Ministers reaffirmed their commitment to respecting and strengthening international law in order to ensure peace, stability and prosperity and to promote maritime security, safety and cooperation, freedom of navigation and overflight, unimpeded commerce and to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea in full compliance with international law, including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).