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Country: Vietnam  
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Committee: UN women  
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The UN women is the United Nations organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It focuses on priority areas that are fundamental to women's equality, and that "unlock progress across the board"<sup>1</sup> The priority of the committee is to address the issue of women in politics worldwide. Women bring up different perspectives to solve problems- they are more sensitive to people's needs and often help to improve public services.

Vietnam is concerned about increasing the number of women in government because they suffer especially from violence and from natural disasters. Having women in government is essential for these victims not to suffer. Therefore, women would be empathic with them and would solve the issue faster and in a more effective way than men could do. This issue really affects Vietnam, so society needs both genders for evolving and developing into the modern world. If Vietnam did not have women in politics, it would continue having those long-lasting ideas of the past and would not be so prosperous at the time of exchanging goods and creating partnership with other countries. Women are a key part of this. They provide new ideas and perspectives to men's mentality. As a result, both genders can combine to think of new solutions to confront the great exchange of information, knowledge and products globalization has produced. Consequently, Vietnam projects the image of a modern and developed country, which is exactly how the country wants the international community to view them. Vietnam nowadays is seen as a country that has evolved greatly since the war of Vietnam and that has overcome the difficulties of a communist system.

Vietnam has evolved in terms of human equality and rights in a very positive way, especially after women were given the right to vote in 1946<sup>2</sup>. In the past, 34 % of women suffered from rape<sup>3</sup> at least once in their lives. The situation became even worse, due to religion and internal conflicts, which had a great impact in Vietnam's society. Thousands of hectares in Vietnam were destroyed so people could not eat and, bombs, together with weapons, caused great damage in civils, and also in children and women. To stop these atrocious actions, several organizations, specifically, CEDAW and UNESCAP, have been helping these women to recover from these experiences. When they gain enough confidence, most of them will be prepared to face the labour market. Some of them will even be prepared to get into politics and tell their experiences to other women who have gone through the same. The word of mouth is very effective, especially in rural areas of Vietnam, where news take a long while to come. This method, combined with laws, such as the gender equality<sup>4</sup> or the domestic violence prevention and control laws<sup>5</sup> results in successfully increasing the number of women in government. Thanks to these actions, Vietnam has achieved 24, 3 %<sup>6</sup> of women in parliament. The country considers to have

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/opportunity/organization\\_view.html?id=13107](https://www.onlinevolunteering.org/en/vol/opportunity/organization_view.html?id=13107)

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/suffrage.htm>

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.unwomen.org/mdgf/A/VietNam\\_A.html](http://www.unwomen.org/mdgf/A/VietNam_A.html)

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ilo.org/dyn/travail/docs/934/Law%20on%20Gender%20Equality%202006.pdf>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.wcwonline.org/pdf/lawcompilation/VietnamDomesticViolence.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/classif.htm>

improved much in terms of women's parity and rights in politics. However, there is still a long way to completely achieve these goals.

International agreements and actions in Vietnam have greatly contributed to the process of having more women in government. Vietnam forms part of the UN development summit of 2000 and of VWU, Vietnam Women's Union, which is an organization to help women created in Vietnam. This organization has 13 million members worldwide and helps women to build up confidence and strength so they can reach high positions, as well as creating a media campaign to project positive images of women who had already reached their aims<sup>7</sup>. As a consequence, women start to think by themselves and learn not to depend on their husbands' decision, which will help them to be independent and resourceful. The main aim of these organizations is to make women participate in politics and make the country to have equality between genders. Thanks to their effort, an increase in knowledge and awareness of this issue has been seen. There are other organizations which are teaching women knowledge for them to acquire the power they did not get in their childhood. Feminist movements in the 60s and 70s made women more aware of their potential and the need to say "no" to this situation. Men also started to be conscious of the issue, since then numerous improvements have taken place and women are much more valued now than in the past.

Vietnam wants countries to be involved with this issue actively and proposes several actions in order to achieve gender equality in politics. The country would like the international community to estimate "the frequencies and forms of violence against women"<sup>8</sup> and if domestic violence is related with health issues in women. Furthermore, it would be useful for Vietnam if they could take measures "to have full access and participation in power structures", as well as "increasing women's capacity to take decisions and learn how to leader"<sup>9</sup>. Firstly, a television program, where women who have already reached an important position in, for instance, companies or politics can express all their opinions and feelings to other women to help and guide them, could be created. This would be emitted in many countries and people who do not know much about the issue would make up their minds and start helping women in their hazardous way to reach equality, moved by their sorrow and their sadness. Secondly, an organization only of women, where they can participate and solve all the issues they have and talk about them, would be very useful. The discussion of these women would be listened by people, whom will probably spread the word until it reaches the parliament, where solutions to the issue will be taken, in response to the protests of people who have heard what these women said. The protests would found support in the rest of the countries and in those fair laws created to empower women, and would start expanding and crossing frontiers. Both strategies would be great to increase their confidence and partnership, something they lost many years ago. Finally, there are other remarkable strategies Vietnam could carry out at an international level thanks to the allies the country has made with other countries, such as to stop emitting programs where inequalities between genders are shown, creating campaigns with the benefits of having women in politics to change people's mentality or making public speeches to raise awareness, which are key to combat this issue.

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<sup>7</sup> [http://www.csu.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/199158/EFS\\_Journal\\_vol7\\_n02\\_24.pdf](http://www.csu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0006/199158/EFS_Journal_vol7_n02_24.pdf)

<sup>8</sup> [http://www.unwomen.org/mdgf/A/VietNam\\_A.html](http://www.unwomen.org/mdgf/A/VietNam_A.html)

<sup>9</sup> <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/beijingat10/G.%20Women%20in%20power%20and%20decision-making.pdf>

The global impact of the need to increase the role of women in politics affects humans in a widespread scale. Men have been ruling and taking decisions for humans for a long time. This leadership has achieved great evolution and created impressive technology to satisfy basic needs. With the time they have become more complex to compete into the great world of offer and demand. But, to achieve this level of evolution, humans have destroyed the environment and taken advantage of the resources they thought never were going to end. Women are changing everything. Their ideas are improving the world. They have united together and made stronger. Vietnam is doing the same and day-by-day continues evolving. Never is late to start.

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