ACTION PLAN
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP
IN THE PERIOD 2017-2020
BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

With the desire to effectively realize the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership officially agreed upon and announced by Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi on 03 September 2016 in Ha Noi, both governments shall endeavor to pursue the following actions and initiatives in the period of 2017-2020.

I. POLITICAL COOPERATION

1. To further promote the exchange of visits and contacts at all levels and between various elements of the two nations, including political parties, state, government and parliament, particularly in the Friendship Year of 2017. To continue pushing forward the "Distinguished Guests" programme agreed upon by the Leaders of the two countries (in 2013).

2. To optimize the existing cooperation mechanism and regularly convene the meetings of Viet Nam - India Joint Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Political Consultations and Strategic Dialogues at Deputy Foreign Ministerial level.

3. To jointly organize various activities in each country in 2017 to commemorate the 45th anniversary of Viet Nam – India diplomatic relations (07/1/1972 - 07/1/2017) and the 10th anniversary of establishment of Strategic Partnership (06/7/2007 - 06/7/2017).

II. DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

4. To continue the effective implementation of Joint Vision Statement on Viet Nam - India Defense Relations in the period of 2015-2020; to intensify defense and security contacts and exchange of delegation at all levels; to promote military forces' cooperation, naval ship visits, coast guards, training and capacity building, equipment procurement and transfer of technology.

5. To promote the implementation of agreements on defense and security cooperation signed on the occasion of the official visit to Viet Nam by Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi (September 2016); to utilize the Line of Credit granted by the Indian Government in developing security and defense industries on the basis of Viet Nam's needs and purposes of use as well as the India's ability.

6. To implement the Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation between the National Security Council Secretariat of India and the Ministry of Public Security of Viet Nam signed in November 2016.

7. To enhance bilateral cooperation efforts in capacity building and combating transnational crimes.

8. To extend mutually active support in multilateral cooperation fora, including the ASEAN cooperative mechanisms such as ASEAN Plus 1 with India, ASEAN Defense Ministerial Meeting Plus (ADMM+), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF) and ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

9. To further undertake training and capacity building programmes regarding information technology, foreign language, defence and security.

III. ECONOMIC, TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION

10. To increase total bilateral trade volume in goods and services to US$15 billion by 2020.

11. To convene regular meetings of the Joint Sub-Commission on Trade in order to find solutions and measures for facilitating bilateral trade; pushing forward the outcomes of every meeting in an active and effective manner.

12. To intensify the exchange of delegations, business-to-business contacts and cooperation among provinces of Viet Nam and states of India, regular organization of meetings of Viet Nam - India Joint Business Council, Viet Nam - India Business Forum, India-CLMV Business Conclave, business promotion fora, trade fairs and commercial shows.

13. To encourage businesses and enterprises of the two countries to further enhance mutual understanding and actively explore new business opportunities in the identified priority areas for cooperation namely: power generation, hydrocarbons, renewable energy, infrastructure, tourism, textiles, footwear, medical and pharmaceuticals, information technology and telecommunication, electronics, agriculture, agro-products, chemicals, machine tools and other supporting industries.

14. To facilitate the increase of two-way investment; create opportunities and maintain favorable conditions for the entry and expansion of mutual investment, including measures to encourage the participation of private sector, in accordance with their respective laws and regulations.

15. To intensify cooperation, discussion, exchange of experience towards the effective implementation of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement, Trade in Services Agreement and Investment Agreement; to cooperate closely in order to facilitate the negotiation of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (RCEP).

IV. ENERGY COOPERATION

16. To work out and realize intensified cooperative programs in oil and gas exploration and production as well as high-quality petroleum services. To implement effectively long-term cooperation between Petro Viet Nam (PVN) and ONGC Videsh in Viet Nam, including its Exclusive Economic Zone, on the basis of mutual benefit. To jointly explore and develop cooperative opportunities in new and potential oil and gas projects in India, Viet Nam and the third countries.

17. To further exchange of expertise, technical assistance and cooperation in the development of renewable energy and the application of renewable energy to power generation. To continue facilitating the investment deployment in thermal power projects in Viet Nam for achieving contractual conclusion.

V. CONNECTIVITY COOPERATION

18. To create favourable condition to strengthen the cooperation to implement the initiative on regional connectivity in road, air and waterways between the two countries; to facilitate the early commencement of direct flights and code shared flights by designated airlines between the two countries; to promote the establishment of direct shipping routes between the major sea ports of Viet Nam and India.

19. To cooperate and mutually support each other in exploring opportunities to enhance the physical and digital connectivity under the framework of ASEAN – India cooperation; especially in the effective utilization of the $1 billion Line of Credit and other initiatives of India for ASEAN and CLMV countries.

VI. SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COOPERATION

20. To regularly organize the Viet Nam - India Joint Committee on Science and Technology to propose measures enhancing the bilateral cooperation in the fields of science, technology and creativity.

21. To facilitate the implementation of the signed documents, agreements in technology and science such as the Programme of Cooperation in bio-technology; MOU on the cooperation in the field of standardization and metrology; Agreement between the Governments of Viet Nam and India on Cooperation in the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy; to facilitate the discussions and signing of the Agreement between Viet Nam Atomic Energy Institute and Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership of India.

22. To formulate and implement new projects and programs in the fields of science, technology and creativity on the basis of emphasizing on education and human resources development.

VII. INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION COOPERATION

23. To implement the Agreement on building the Centre for Excellence in Software Development and Training; MOU in the field of information technology signed in September 2016.

24. To establish the information channel between State institutions, organizations, associations and enterprises of the two countries to promote the positive images and information of the country and people of Viet Nam to Indian people and vice versa.

VIII. EDUCATION, TRAINING AND RESEARCH

25. To strengthen the cooperation between universities and research centers of the two countries; to effectively implement Indian Centers in Viet Nam; to research the methods to implement projects for excellence in educational training and to establish the capacity building institutes in Viet Nam with specialization matching the development trend such as: information technology, software development, English, management skill, etc.

26. India is to continue to provide capacity building training to Viet Nam through Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), Indian assistance for Viet Nam in the framework of Ganga-Mekong cooperation, to provide long-term and short-term scholarships for Vietnamese students and Government officials in the fields of strength of India.

IX. CULTURE, TOURISM AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE LINKS:

27. To strengthen exchanges of cultural activities and performance troupes; to cooperate in organizing the Cultural Week/Day, especially in the framework of the Year of Friendship Viet Nam – India 2017. Viet Nam and India are to cooperate in sharing experiences and implementing the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage in each country. India is to encourage Indian educational institutes to organize courses of Vietnamese language and to promote Vietnamese culture.

28. To facilitate the discussions and signing of the "Cooperation Plan on Tourism for the years 2017 - 2019 between the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Tourism of Viet Nam and Ministry of Tourism of India", "Cultural Exchange Program between Viet Nam and India celebrating the Year of Friendship 2017".

29. To strengthen the people-to-people links, especially exchanges between the youth of Viet Nam and India; to consider the possibility of drafting the Cooperation Plan on People-to-people exchange between the two countries. Work towards easier visa regime for citizens of both countries to promote tourism through Fairs, in Buddhist Circuit and people-to-people exchanges.

X. LEGAL AND JURIDICAL COOPERATION

30. To facilitate the internal procedures to ratify the MOU on Transfer of Sentenced Persons.

31. To open discussions and conclude the signing of the MOU in the field of legal and juridical cooperation between the Ministry of Justice of Viet Nam and the Ministry of Law and Justice of India.

XI. HEALTHCARE, AGRICULTURE, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND AQUACULTURE COOPERATION

32. To establish and implement concrete measures to facilitate the implementation of the Memorandum of Health Cooperation; to exchange experiences and consider the possibility of building and signing the documents of cooperation on development of traditional medicine system between the two countries.

33. To increase the exchange of experience and introduce specific cooperation projects between the two Ministries of Agriculture and agricultural research institutions; facilitate greater interactions between farmers of the two countries.

XII. FINANCE COOPERATION AND CONCESSIONAL CREDIT

34. To strengthen the cooperation in the fields of banking and finance in order to facilitate the economic relations between the two countries; to cooperate to effectively implement the Lines of Credit that India provides for Viet Nam.

35. India continues to provide Viet Nam with financial support and concessional Lines of Credit to implement important projects on the basis of mutual agreement.

XIII. REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

36. To strengthen the consultation, information exchange, close cooperation and mutual support at regional and international fora such as the United Nations, Non-Aligned Movement, World Trade Organization, ASEAN as well as ASEAN-lead fora(East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF), ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus (ADMM+), Expanded ASEAN Maritime Forum (EAMF)), especially in the year of ASEAN Chairmanship of Viet Nam (in 2020), ASEAN-Europe Meeting (ASEM), and other sub-regional cooperation mechanisms such as the Mekong – Ganga Cooperation; cooperation between India and CLMV countries, Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, etc. To strengthen the cooperation in issues of mutual interests such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21) goals, to maintain the security in maritime routes, maritime security, piracy and sea level rising prevention, trans-border water resources management...

37. To foster cooperation in addressing regional and international issues; both sides reiterated their desire and determination to work together to maintain peace, stability, growth and prosperity in Asia and beyond. Both sides further reiterated their support for peace, stability, the rule of law, including settlement of disputes by peaceful means, maritime security, safety and freedoms of navigation and over flight, and unimpeded commerce, based on the principles of international law, as reflected in the United Nations' Charter and the UNCLOS. In this regard, both sides called on all states to perform in good faith all of their international legal obligations and to resolve disputes through peaceful means without threat or use of force and exercise self-restraint in the conduct of activities that could complicate or escalate disputes affecting peace and stability, respect the diplomatic and legal processes, fully observe and effectively implement the Declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and soon finalize the Code of Conduct (COC). They also recognized that the sea lanes of communication passing through the South China Sea are critical for peace, stability, prosperity and development of the region and beyond. Vietnam and India, as State Parties to the UNCLOS, urged all parties to respect and obey the UNCLOS, which establishes the international legal order of the seas and oceans.

Signed in New Delhi on 4th July 2017 in two originals English languages, each side keep an original with equal validity. The Action Plan will come into operation on the date of its signature.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA	ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
SUSHMA SWARAJ **MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**	**PHAM BINH MINH** **MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**