

REFERENCE: CERD/116<sup>th</sup> session/FU/CS/CS/ks

11 December 2025

Excellency,

I wish to inform you that the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, during its 116<sup>th</sup> session, considered the follow-up report submitted by the Government of Vietnam, pursuant to article 9 (1) of the Convention and rule 65 (1) of the Rules of Procedure of the Committee.

The Committee welcomes the submission of the report, in response to its request to receive information within one year on the implementation of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 13 (c) (death penalty), 17 (e) (racial profiling and excessive use of force) and 29 (c) (freedom of religion or belief) of the Concluding Observations [CERD/C/VNM/CO/15-17](#) adopted following the consideration of the State party's combined 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> periodic reports at its 111<sup>th</sup> session, held in November-December 2024.

The Committee appreciates the opportunity provided to continue its dialogue with the State party and would like to draw the State party's attention to the observations mentioned below. The Committee requests that comments and responses on actions taken by the State party on these issues be included in its next periodic report.

**Paragraph 13 (c) of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee takes note with satisfaction the information provided by the State party on the adoption of Decision No. 1567/QD-TTg of 12 December 2024, approving the plan to strengthen the implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and to carry out CERD's recommendations.

The Committee also welcomes the recent abolition of the death penalty for eight specific offences in the State Party, reducing the number of offences for which this penalty can be applied from eighteen to ten, and the judicial reform strategy for reducing the application of the death penalty.

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Nevertheless, the Committee remains concerned at the reports on ethnic disparities in the imposition of the death penalty and that the State party does not disclose official data on the number of individuals on death row and those executed. It regrets the lack of information on the measures adopted to collect and publish statistics on the number of individuals sentenced to death, on death row and executed, disaggregated by ethnicity and national origin.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

#### **Paragraph 17 (e) of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party regarding the legal provisions establishing penalties for police officers who violate regulations relating to arrest, detention, and investigation. It also takes note of the inspections, supervision and monitoring visits conducted at different levels of government to oversee law enforcement practices in detention facilities, aimed at identifying, preventing and remedying violations that occur during arrest, custody and imprisonment. The Committee further notes the training activities carried out for law enforcement officials on human rights protection.

However, the Committee regrets the lack of detailed information on the measures taken to ensure that victims of racial profiling by law enforcement officials have access to effective remedies and adequate compensation, and do not face reprisals for reporting such acts. The Committee considers the response to this recommendation partially satisfactory and requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on measures taken to fully implement the recommendation.

#### **Paragraph 29 (c) of the Concluding Observations**

The Committee takes note of the information provided by the State party regarding the adoption, on 29 December 2023, of Decree No. 95/2023/ND-CP, which provides guidelines on selected articles of the Law on Belief and Religion. It also notes that the Ministry of Home Affairs has issued an implementation plan for the aforementioned decree, as well as a plan for its dissemination. The Committee further notes the project entitled “Professional training for functionaries and public servants in charge of religious and belief affairs for the 2022–2026 period”. It also notes that the State party’s future priorities include raising public awareness of the legal framework governing freedom of belief and religion, with a view to ensuring the effective enjoyment of this freedom by all persons, including members of ethnic minorities.

The Committee regrets, however, the lack of detailed information on the measures adopted to put an end to the use of force and abuse of power by law enforcement and other public officials, including the confiscation of religious materials and the disruption of religious activities or gatherings targeting individuals and leaders belonging to ethno-religious minority

groups. It is further concerned by reports of systemic harassment, criminalization, and religious and cultural repression of Khmer Krom human rights defenders, activists and Theravada Buddhist monks for peacefully exercising their rights to freedom of religion or belief, freedom of expression, freedom of association, freedom of peaceful assembly, and their right to participate in cultural life.

The Committee considers the response to this recommendation unsatisfactory. It requests the State Party to provide, in its next periodic report, information on the measures taken to fully implement the recommendation, including on steps adopted to prevent and respond promptly and effectively to all acts of undue interference with freedom of religion or belief, such as the use of force, abuse of power, harassment or intimidation, and to ensure that those responsible are brought to justice and that victims have access to adequate and effective remedies.

Rest assured, Excellency, that the Committee looks forward to continuing its constructive dialogue with the Government of Vietnam, with a view to providing it with assistance in its efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Convention.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Michał Balcerzak  
Chair

Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination