



The Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (NPSC) is a long-standing people's organization committed to the principles of peace, sovereignty, justice, and human rights in Nepal and the broader region. Established in the 1950s in the spirit of solidarity among peoples struggling against colonialism and oppression, NPSC is an active member of the Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) and has significantly contributed to promoting people's movements for peace, disarmament, sustainable development, and human rights.

In this report, NPSC presents its independent assessment and observations on the progress made by the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in implementing the ICCPR, with particular attention to the political rights, the right to life, non-discrimination, and the protection of vulnerable groups.

I. Political Rights (under Articles 9, 21, and 25 of the Covenant)

Viet Nam considers political rights, including the right to participate in public affairs, freedom of assembly, and protection from arbitrary detention, as foundational to building a rule-of-law state, ensuring sustainable development, and promoting inclusive governance. The principle of "Placing people at the center and considering people as the objective, subject and driving force of national development" is consistently affirmed in the 2013 Constitution (Articles 2 and 6) and further reflected national laws, policies and institutions. Accordingly, all socio-economic development policies must be rooted in the lives, aspirations, and legitimate interests of the people.

The universal, equal, direct, and secret electoral mechanism is conducted seriously and regularly. In the election of the 15th National Assembly and People's Councils at all levels for the 2021–2026 term, over 69.2 million voters registered nationwide, with a turnout rate of 99.6%, reflecting high exercise of the right to self-determination. Notably, over 90% of voters aged 18–35 participated, indicating strong youth interest in political life. The structure of representation in the National Assembly and local governments also reflects diversity and inclusiveness. The 15th National Assembly includes 151 female deputies (30.26%), 89 from ethnic minorities (18.14%), and 14 deputies under 40, helping ensure representation of various social groups in policymaking.¹

Regarding the right to participate in state and social management, Viet Nam continues to expand people's roles through a system of political, social, professional, and grassroots organizations. By 2023, there were a total of 70,000 associations across Viet Nam, of which the association had the scope of the whole country or inter-provincial activities of 587 associations². These groups play key roles in gathering public opinion, social critique, policy oversight, and participation in lawmaking, strategy, and planning processes.³

¹ IPU Parline Global data on national parliaments – Viet Nam National Assembly, <https://data.ipu.org/parliament/VN/VN-LC01/election/VN-LC01-E20210523/>, accessed March 21th 2025

² Duc Minh, Proposal to develop a Law on associations, [Proposal to develop a Law on Associations | Ho Chi Minh City Law Newspaper](#), accessed March 21th 2025

³ Nguyen Vu Duy Anh, THE ROLE OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN MAKING AND CRITICIZING STATE POLICIES, <https://tapchicongthuong.vn/vai-tro-cua-to-chuc-xa-hoi-doi-voi-xay-dung--phan-bien-cac-chinh-sach-cua-nha-nuoc-110338.htm>, accessed March 21th 2025



All these efforts demonstrate that political rights in Viet Nam extend beyond formal electoral processes and continue to evolve in both scope and substance—reflecting the country's commitment to ensuring that "all state power belongs to the people."

II. Right to Life (under Article 6 of the Covenant)

Viet Nam faces high risks of natural disasters and climate change: according to the World Bank, the country loses about 1.5% of its GDP annually due to disasters.⁴ On average, 300–500 people die each year from storms, floods, and landslides. Viet Nam is also among the top five countries most vulnerable to sea-level rise⁵. Nevertheless, it has made bold commitment to meet climate targets in 2022 with a 15.8% emission cut by 2030 under the Paris Agreement's Business-as-Usual (BAU) scenario, by up to 43.5% with international support. At COP 26 & 27, it announced net zero emissions by 2050; reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030; no new coal power plants after 2030 and complete phase-out of coal power by 2040.⁶ As a responsible member of the international community, Viet Nam joined the Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement and the Glasgow Leaders' Declaration on Forests and Land Use, aiming to reverse deforestation by 2030 and the Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health.⁷

III. Non-Discrimination and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (under Articles 2, 19, 20, 26 of the Covenant)

Viet Nam has ratified most international conventions against discrimination, such as CEDAW (women), CRC (children), CRPD (persons with disabilities), CERD (racial discrimination). The rights of vulnerable groups are protected through numerous laws: the 2006 Law on Gender Equality, the 2016 Law on Children, the 2010 Law on Persons with Disabilities, and the 2009 Law on the Elderly.

Viet Nam currently has about 6.2 million persons with disabilities, accounting for nearly 7% of the population. Of these, around 2 million are of working age. However, only about 30% have stable jobs, mainly in the informal sector.⁸ The government has issued more than 30 specific

⁴ The World Bank, Climate-Resilient Development in Viet Nam: Strategic Directions for the World Bank, January 2011

⁵ Ynet Viet Nam, Viet Nam Youth Statement on Climate Change 2023, <https://ynetvietnam.org/vys-2023>, accessed March 21st 2025

⁶ Viet Namplus, Viet Nam continues to show strong commitments to climate actions, <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/Viet-Nam-continues-to-show-strong-commitments-to-climate-actions-post271961.vnp>, accessed March 21st 2025

⁷ Viet Namplus, Viet Nam joins Alliance for Transformative Action on Climate and Health, <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/Viet-Nam-joins-alliance-for-transformative-action-on-climate-and-health-post274738.vnp#:~:text=The%20Ministry%20of%20Health%20and%20the%20World,of%20achieving%20net%2Dzero%20carbon%20emissions%20by%202050.&text=She%20said%20VietNam%20is%20commended%20for%20the,already%20taking%20on%20climate%20change%20and%20health,> accessed March 21st 2025

⁸ Viet Namnet, Participation rate of Viet Nameese disabled people in labor force remains low, <https://vietnamnet.vn/en/participation-rate-of-Viet-Nameese-disabled-people-in-labor-force-remains-low-702832.html>, accessed March 21st 2025



policies to promote access to healthcare, education, transportation, and legal support for persons with disabilities.⁹

IV. Economic Achievements and Human Rights Impacts

Economic development is a key foundation for effectively ensuring human rights, including civil and political rights and access to essential services like education, healthcare, and housing. Over the past 50 years of independence and more than three decades of reform, Viet Nam has made significant progress, transforming from a poor country to a lower-middle-income nation, laying a solid foundation for expanding the rights enshrined in the ICCPR.

Since 1986, Viet Nam's per capita GDP has soared from less than \$700 in 1986 to almost \$4,500 in 2023, and the share of the population living on less than \$3.65/day (in 2017 purchasing power parity) plummeted from 14 percent in 2010 to less than 4 percent in 2023. GDP grew by 7.1 percent in 2024.¹⁰ The multidimensional poverty rate was reduced by approximately 4.2%, representing an average year-on-year decrease of 1.05%. In poor districts, it has dropped by over 4% annually, reaching about 26% at present, while among ethnic minority groups, it has decreased by more than 3% per year to less than 13.5%.¹¹

Viet Nam's Human Development Index increased nearly 46% since 1990. In 2023, it ranked 65th out of 137 in the World Happiness Report, up 12 places from the previous year.¹²

Overall, economic achievements have enhanced the State's capacity to ensure human rights and enabled Viet Nam to better fulfill its obligations under the ICCPR, working toward an inclusive, equitable, and "no one left behind" society.

V. Recommendations

NPSC acknowledges Viet Nam's remarkable progress in implementing the ICCPR, particularly in the areas of the right to life, the right to self-determination, non-discrimination, and the promotion of inclusive development.

We recommend that the Government of Viet Nam:

- To communicate more extensively to the international audience about the lessons learnt and best practices in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- To support Viet Nam- Nepal people's exchanges and learning on the topic of human rights in connection with economic and development rights.

⁹ Kim Loan, Gov't approves support program for people with disabilities, <https://en.baochinhphu.vn/govt-approves-support-program-for-people-with-disabilities-11138937.htm>, accessed March 21th 2025

¹⁰ World Bank Group, the World Bank in Viet Nam, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/VietNam/overview#:~:text=Real%20GDP%20per%20capita%20soared,by%207.1%20percent%20in%202024,> accessed March 21th 2025

¹¹ Viet Namplus, Multidimensional poverty rate drops to below 1% in 2024, <https://en.VietNamplus.vn/multidimensional-poverty-rate-drops-to-below-1-in-2024-post307443.vnp>, accessed March 21th 2025

¹² Viet Namplus, Viet Nam among countries with high human development: UNDP report, <https://en.VietNamplus.vn/Viet-Nam-among-countries-with-high-human-development-undp-report-post319124.vnp#:~:text=According%20to%20the%20report%2C%20which%20evaluates%20human,93rd%20out%20of%20193%20countries%20and%20territories>, accessed March 21th 2025



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- To acknowledge and honor the contribution of NGOs, people's organizations in upholding and promoting human rights in Viet Nam.

NPSC is confident that, with a foundation of stable development, a spirit of peace, and strong international standing, Viet Nam will continue to serve as a positive model in integrating economic growth with the protection of human rights — not only in the Asia-Pacific region, but also on a global scale.