

International Integration in Defense and Security of Vietnam

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ABSTRACT

International integration in defense and security is a part of international integration and the guideline and strategic direction of Vietnam, supporting interests of Vietnam and benefits of countries in the world. International integration in defense and security of Vietnam clearly demonstrates human nature and peaceful, self-defense and righteous characteristics. Theory and practice confirm that scientific feature, creativeness and effectiveness of international integration in defense and security of Vietnam are for peace and social progress of Vietnam and international community. After the “Cold War”, mankind enters the 21st century with spirit of reform, globalization and international integration as an inevitable objective trend. Vietnam always properly recognizes and expresses political determination in preparing material and spiritual conditions to actively join in international integration, specifically international integration in defense and security, in an effective manner with proper attitude and responsibility.

Keywords: international integration; defense and security; cooperation; peace, stability and development; independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity; bilateral relationships, multilateral relationships; interests of nations - countries; social progress.

Introduction

Contexts of Vietnam’s international integration and international integration in defense and security

At the end of the 20th century and the beginning of 21st century, security situations in the world and in the Asia Pacific region, especially situations in countries of ASEAN community, have various new and complicated changes; however, peace, cooperation and development are still big trends with good prospects. Assessing the world’s situations, Vietnam considers that another world war, or a war using weapons of mass destruction, or a nuclear war, is unlikely to occur; however, risks of local wars and armed conflicts between countries due to disagreements, national, ethnic and religious contradictions, together with acts of terrorism, interference, subversion, secession, land and natural resources conflicts, free migration, etc. are increasing, which directly impact on and affect the maintenance of peace, stability and development of countries and nations. Another matter of concern is impacts of modern scientific and technological revolution, especially those of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, on development of all

nations and countries. These factors force all countries to adjust their strategies and policies in order to adapt and develop. In the recent years, situations in the world, as well as in the Asia Pacific regions, and especially in the countries of ASEAN community, have been changing fast and unexpectedly.

Interestingly, vigorous development in economy, science, technology and military of superpowers, such as the United States of America, China, Russia, etc. and the prospective withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union are profoundly changing political and military situations in the world, and making the trend of multipolar, multicenter world order become clearer. Adjustments of strategies and policies of major countries are creating more and more emerging superpowers and centers of power, notably China, India and Japan, who are showing their increasingly important roles in their regions and in the world. This leads to an objective inevitability: competition for influence among superpowers and centers of power becomes more and more intense. Reality proves that in the first years of the 21st century, globalization, international integration, development of knowledge economy and the birth of the Fourth Industrial Revolution have been making all nations-countries become closer, more interrelated and interdependent. In such situations, no isolated or separated nation-country can stably develop. Therefore, all countries, regardless of being large or small, must increasingly cooperate with others, either bilaterally or multilaterally, in order to resolve global issues and protect common interests of mankind, namely peace, stability, prosperity and development. Of course, due to the fact that all nations and countries are different in terms of opinions, socio-political regimes and core interests, namely territory, energy security, food security and economic interests, competitions among regions, and countries become more and more intense.

Solving aforementioned issues is the work that require combined efforts of the whole international community, comprising of various nations and countries, and Vietnam also have roles and responsibility for carrying out that task. Many researchers argue that challenges of traditional and non-traditional security have never been as intertwined and complicated as happening in the current world. Competitions for power and influence among countries, especially among major countries (G7 and G20 countries) are running intensely in directions of “cooperating and competing”, “competing and compromising”. The most remarkable competitions are those of U.S. - China, U.S. - Russia, China - Russia. In general, all nations-countries in the world tend to increase their budget spending, build up their military, defense and security strengths, and at the same time adjust their military and defense organizations, structures and strategies toward being elite, compact and having high combat effectiveness. In that context, in order to maintain peace, stability and development, all countries are in need of boosting defense and security cooperation to cope with new challenges, stably protect independence and sovereignty, maintain social order and national security, and make use of all opportunities to develop.

Deeply understanding these changes of the situations in the world and ASEAN community, as well as the objective inevitability of protecting Vietnamese Fatherland in

advance in new historical conditions, Vietnam has properly acknowledged and pointed out the necessity of proactively and actively participating in international integration in general and international integration in defense and security in particular. Though chances and opportunities for national reform are plentiful, lots of risks and challenges still exist, especially the intertwined risks and challenges of traditional and non-traditional security threatening peace and stability of all nations countries, including Vietnam. The increasingly intense competitions for power among countries, especially large ones of U.S. - China - Russia, disputes and escalating tensions in South China Sea, security instability in the world and Middle East, North Africa, North East Asia regions, and anti-human terrorist activities of ISIL have deeply affected peace of the world and ASEAN community, especially impacted on the cause of national reform and Fatherland build-up and protection of Vietnam. For Vietnam, the crucial and regular national defense - security task, which is an urgent and serious one, is to firmly protect Vietnamese Fatherland, maintain a peaceful and stable environment for sustainable national buildup and development, and contribute to peace, prosperity and development of ASEAN community, Asia Pacific region and world peace.

Acknowledging implications and importance of international integration in defense and security for building up and protecting Vietnamese Fatherland in advance, Vietnam also takes the responsibility to join in protecting peace, prosperity and development of the world. Vietnam always places emphasis on resolving the relationship between building up and protecting Vietnamese Fatherland and the relationship between promoting strength of the whole nation and making full use of advantages and strength of this era, as well as inherits and applies experiences of building up and protecting Fatherland of advanced and developed countries to build and consolidate Vietnamese people's defense posture and people's security posture. This is the utmost important principle guiding domestic and foreign policies and military and defense guidelines of Vietnam for the purposes of peace, prosperity and sustainable development of Vietnam and other countries, for social progress and humanitarian values. International integration in defense and security plays an important and dominant role in raising position and prestige of Vietnam in international arena, contributing to firmly protecting independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Vietnam, and well-being of people in the world.

Vietnam emphasizes on proactively and actively reforming and improving efficiency and effectiveness of defense and security diplomacy, promoting bilateral cooperation, and actively participating in and formulating multilateral defense and security cooperation mechanisms in which Vietnam is a responsible member, with a number of appropriate modes and measures; Vietnam boosts communication and introduction of the Vietnamese people and country, expresses goodwill and aspiration for peaceful living, desires to expand comprehensive cooperation with countries in the international community on the basis of respecting international laws and laws of host countries, guaranteeing benefits of all parties, and committing that Vietnam does not interfere in the internal affairs of other countries. Vietnam aims at improving quality and

effectiveness of diplomatic activities, proactively and actively participating in international integration in defense and security and in other fields for the purposes of maintaining peaceful and stable environment and making use of external resources to develop the country and improve living standards of Vietnamese people. Vietnam resolutely and persistently fights against all reactive, terrorist and separatist forces, objects to wars of all kind, firmly protects independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Vietnam, contributes to maintaining peace, national independence, democracy and realizing justice, social progress and human values.

In addition, Vietnam proactively and actively joins in multilateral defense and security mechanisms, in particular actively joins in higher level defense and security cooperation activities such as peacekeeping operations of the United Nations, international exercise of nontraditional security and humanitarian relief activities, in accordance with conditions and circumstances of Vietnam and international laws. These activities help Vietnam learn from experiences and better fulfill obligation of peacekeeping and train military officers to join in UN operations, such as peacekeeping operations in South Sudan. In short, at the beginning of the 21st century, from a policy of international integration focusing on international economic integration, Vietnam gradually expands its international integration into other fields, including international integration in defense and security. This is a new development of awareness and a right policy having good effects in directing military diplomatic activities of Vietnam, clearly reflecting human nature and peaceful, self-defense and righteous characteristics of Vietnam's defense and security, as well as Vietnam's responsibilities and obligations to the international community.

Results

Objectives and tasks of international integration in defense and security of Vietnam

Vietnam determines to join in international integration in defense and security with the following orientation: Formulating and implementing a strategy for international integration in defense and security matching with new thinking of Fatherland protection, guaranteeing national security, effectively making use of external resources, improving international position and prestige of Vietnam for the purposes of building a prosperous Vietnam and firmly protecting Vietnamese Fatherland. In order to achieve this, Vietnam identifies major policies of defense and security diplomacy, as follows.

(1) Vietnam shall further boost bilateral cooperation in defense and security with neighboring countries, namely China, Lao, Cambodia, and with ASEAN countries, major countries and traditional friends, step by step making international cooperation in defense and security be comprehensive, effective, amicable, peaceful, friendly and for the sake of prosperous development.

(2) Vietnam shall proactively and actively join in multilateral defense and security cooperation mechanisms in which Vietnam is a responsible member, first of all the mechanisms within framework of ASEAN community and headed by ASEAN. In addition, Vietnam shall formulate and implement plans for joining in other multilateral

mechanisms for the interests of Vietnamese nation-country. Specifically, joining in higher level cooperation activities, such as UN peacekeeping operations, control of proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, joint exercises and humanitarian activities, etc., meeting requirements of protecting Vietnamese Fatherland in advance for the sake of common interests of mankind. Vietnam strongly objects to the fact that some countries manufacture, produce and test nuclear weapons, or use nuclear weapons to threaten the world's peace. Vietnam objects to wars of all kind, especially nuclear wars.

Regarding Objectives: International integration in defense and security is aimed at firmly protecting sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity of Vietnamese Fatherland, protecting interests of Vietnamese nation - country, maintaining peaceful and stable environment, creating favorable conditions for international integration in other fields, namely economy, culture, science, education, etc., contributing to building and developing Vietnam, building, consolidating and maintaining peace of the ASEAN community, the Asia Pacific region and the world.

Regarding Steering Direction: International integration in defense and security is a proper strategic direction, is the approach for protecting Vietnamese Fatherland in advance by peaceful measures of Vietnam. Vietnam shall implement international integration in defense and security in various bilateral and multilateral forms, to make international integration in defense and security become comprehensive, stable, sustainably developed, realistic and effective on the basis of mutual understanding and mutual respect.

By international integration in defense and security, Vietnam desires to improve and enhance strategic trust of other countries and international friends in Vietnam, maintain peaceful, stable and prosperous environment, cooperate to develop together, and enhance defense and security positions of Vietnam and ASEAN community. International integration in defense and security shall be implemented in proactive, active, determined, flexible and effective manners, so as not to let Vietnam be in passive or unprepared stance, not to let ASEAN community fall in conflicts and disagreements hindering development, social progress and prolonging the development of history. Vietnam shall make use of all internal strengths and utilize external resources in the course of international integration in defense and security, properly implementing the policy: Vietnam is a friend, a reliable partner and a responsible member of the international community.

Regarding Requirements: Vietnam must step by step overcome difficulties, realize new thinking of international integration in defense and security. Also, it is a must for Vietnam to clearly determine pathway, steps, demands, and objectives of international integration and defense and security diplomacy within capabilities and conditions of Vietnam, in line with the trend of cooperation, association and development of the ASEAN community, the Asia Pacific region and the world. Furthermore, Vietnam must closely coordinate activities of international integration in economy, science, technology, culture, education and defense and security diplomacy.

Regarding Tasks: Vietnam shall formulate and implement Strategy for international integration and diplomacy in defense and security until 2020 and in the next years up to 2030 and vision to 2050, in line with new thinking of Vietnam on Fatherland protection. Also, Vietnam shall determine levels of international integration in defense and security in accordance with degrees of relationships and cooperation with strategic partners: U.S., China, Russia, Japan, U.K., France, India, etc. Vietnam shall actively participate in multilateral defense and security mechanisms, first of all the defense and security cooperation mechanisms headed by the ASEAN community, participate in multilateral mechanisms for control of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, participate in exercises and humanitarian activities related to and suitable with conditions of Vietnam. Vietnam shall closely combine military commercial activities, military economic activities, military technical activities, defense and security industrial cooperation activities with defense and security cooperation activities into a unified whole; establish organizations, build up forces, first of all the force directly carrying out defense diplomatic tasks, meeting requirements of international integration in defense and security in the immediate and long term. Vietnam shall strive to soon perfect system of legal documents to support defense and security diplomatic activities, and closely direct the work of studying and learning from experiences of developed countries in order to soon be capable of guaranteeing security and safety in the course of international integration and diplomacy in national defense and security, in which training and fostering of human resources participating in international cooperation in national defense and security is of particular importance.

Results of International Integration in Defense and Security of Vietnam

Currently, Vietnam has established defense and security cooperation relationships with nearly 100 countries, and such relationships are expanding and achieve great achievements of historical significance, resulting in the fact that international integration in defense and security of Vietnam has become comprehensive and practically effective. Bilateral defense cooperation relationships between Vietnam People's Army and United States Armed Forces, Chinese People's Liberation Army, Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, etc. are expanded, contributing to consolidating solidarity and friendship, enhancing mutual understanding and mutual trust, promoting various areas of cooperation, preventing conflicts, resolving emerging security issues, creating new conditions and opportunities for socio-economic development, maintaining peace, political stability, protecting Vietnamese Fatherland, and improving lives of servicepersons and people. Vietnam has been actively negotiating and signing international treaties on sovereignty over land and sea, creating favorable conditions for Vietnam and neighboring countries such as China, Laos and Cambodia to build borders of peace, friendship and co-development.

Collaboration of border patrols on land and sea; cooperation in drilling and training and in military science and technology, exchanges of high-level military delegations between Vietnam and other countries in the ASEAN community, China, the

US and Russia, etc., are important fields of defense and security cooperation which have achieved higher effectiveness and practical achievements and had good prospects for cooperation and development. Effective understanding, support, and assistance from countries towards Vietnam have played important parts in the purchase of military weapons and equipment, officer training, military modernization and enhancement of Vietnam's defense, which is highly valued and appreciated by Vietnamese people and international friends. Multilateral defense relationships have remarkably increased in number and improved in quality and effectiveness. Previously constrained to limited relationships, Vietnam has now actively participated in all major defense and security cooperation mechanisms in the ASEAN community and in the Asia-Pacific region, such as ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting and mechanisms for dialogue and defense and security cooperation with the U.S., Russian, Japan, India, etc.

Vietnam has actively promoted bilateral and multilateral cooperation via initiatives of the ASEAN community and other countries, making existing cooperation relationships become more effective on the basis of better mutual understanding and trust. Also, Vietnam actively formulating new cooperation mechanisms conducive to peace and security in the ASEAN community and the Asia-Pacific region. As such, role of Vietnam in formulating and implementing defense and security cooperation mechanisms with neighboring countries of Laos, Cambodia and China, countries in the ASEAN and Asia Pacific regions have been highly appreciated by the UN and international community. Vietnam has been proactively and actively participated in international multilateral activities, especially peacekeeping training and observation; contributed to building a strong and united ASEAN, protecting and maintaining peaceful and stable environment in the region and in the world, highlighting image, prestige and position of Vietnam in the region and in the world. Recently, Vietnam has established new diplomatic relationships and defense and security cooperation with a number of countries in the world. The friendly and cooperative relationships between Vietnam and other countries in the international community have been consolidated and well developed.

International integration in defense and security is creating new driving forces, directly contributing to building Vietnam People's Army to be revolutionary, regular, seasoned, and gradually modernized, improving professional competency and capability of organizing foreign affair activities of officials directly involved in the defense and security diplomacy of Vietnam. However, international integration in defense and security still has numbers of limitations. Firstly, although the policy of international integration in defense and security of Vietnam had been formulated early on, is correct and of strategic level and in line with development trend of current era, a number of aspects have been implemented slowly and ineffectively in hesitating and diffident manners. Secondly, system of legal documents related to defense and security is supplemented and improved slowly, resulting in the lack of legal basis for implementation. Thirdly, capacity of researching and forecasting, and professional competency of a number of organizations and bodies in charge of foreign affairs are still

limited. Lastly, foreign language skills, especially English, of Vietnamese officials and officers directly participating in international cooperation in defense and security are limited; the work of advising on advancing international cooperation in defense and security with ASEAN countries and other countries in certain situations has not been timely conducted.

Causes of the limitations are:

1. Firstly, the policy of international integration in defense and security is in lack of synchronization, awareness of international integration in defense and security somewhat fails to meet requirements of international integration. This hinders the realization of Vietnam's policy of active and proactive international integration in defense and security.
2. Secondly, technical, material and human potentials, resources and conditions of Vietnam for foreign affairs in general, and for defense and security diplomacy in particular, are limited and somewhat failed to keep pace with Vietnam's progress in international integration and international integration in defense and security.
3. Thirdly, the number of experts on international integration on national defense and security remains low; investment in defense and security cooperation is not commensurate with requirements of the tasks. Lastly, reform in defense and security cooperation is conducted in slow pace.

Viewpoints and directions for international integration in defense and security of Vietnam in the coming time

Amid fast and complicated changes of current situations, Vietnam shall continue to implement the Resolution No. 22-NQ/TW dated April 10, 2013 on international integration, Resolution No. 806-NQ/QUTW dated December 31, 2013 on international integration and defense diplomacy until 2020 and the upcoming years, clearly determine and consistently implement following viewpoints:

- International integration in defense and security to be the approach for protecting Vietnamese

Fatherland in advance by peaceful measures;

- To enhance and consolidate strategic trust between Vietnam and other countries;
- To maintain peaceful and stable environment, cooperate for co-development, build and enhance defense and security of Vietnam to be more and more solid;
- To effectively make use of all potentials and strengths of Vietnam;
- To highlight prestige and position of Vietnam in the ASEAN community and in international arena; and
- To make maximum use of external resources and supports from other countries in the international community to accelerate international integration in defense and security and the modernization of military and defense industry of Vietnam.

Major Directions of International Integration in Defense and Security of Vietnam:

Firstly, Vietnam shall strive to boost bilateral defense and security cooperation and relationships. Vietnam considers bilateral relationships as the centers of defense and security cooperation with other countries, and prioritizes relationships with border-sharing countries. Emphasizes on relationships with ASEAN countries, enhances and develops relationships with major countries and traditional friends. Continue to expand relationships, establishes cooperation mechanisms with new partners in accordance with potentials, strengths and essential and long term interests of Vietnam and these countries. Secondly, Vietnam continues to attach great importance to contacts and dialogs on border issues with China, Laos, and Cambodia, namely management and safeguard of border and landmarks, border friendship exchanges, border station and village twinning, repair and addition of new landmarks, coordinated fight against cross-border crimes and illegal immigration. Thirdly, Vietnam shall boost cooperation between Vietnamese People's Navy and Vietnam Coast Guard with their counterparts of the countries bordering seas in the ASEAN community, and with China, the U.S., Russia, India, Australia, etc. To expand mechanism of consultations, joint patrols, cooperation in training and fostering military, defense and security human resources; research and transfer of military science and technology; cooperation in developing military economy and defense industry between Vietnam and other ASEAN and developed countries.

Fourthly, Vietnam resolutely opposes and does not cooperate with other international terrorist forces, not participate in international institutions having negative impacts on any third country; do not conduct defense and security diplomatic activities under any coercions or pressures. Vietnam shall not engage in any actions conflicting with mankind's interests, or undermining or negatively affecting peace of the world, particularly of the ASEAN community, Asia-Pacific region and other countries. Vietnam shall proactively and actively participate in building a strong ASEAN community, maintaining consensus and enhancing central role of ASEAN in resolving regional security issues; participate more in shaping multilateral defense and security mechanisms in the ASEAN community and in mechanisms and forums headed by ASEAN. Fifthly, Vietnam shall proactively and actively participate in UN peacekeeping operations, continues to support roles of the United Nations in the struggle for disarmament and against arms race, prevention and resolution of disputes and conflicts by peaceful means, protection of independence and the right of self-determination of nations. Vietnam shall continue to expand forms and scopes of UN peacekeeping operations. Sixthly, Vietnam shall proactively and actively join in multilateral defense and security cooperation mechanisms in which Vietnam is a responsible member, first of all the mechanisms within framework of ASEAN community and headed by ASEAN. Vietnam shall formulate and implement plans for joining in other multilateral mechanisms for the interests of Vietnamese nation-country.

Specifically, Vietnam shall join in cooperation activities at higher levels, such as the UN peace keeping operations, weapons of mass destruction proliferation control, joint military exercises and other activities to meet the demand for protecting the Fatherland

and contribute to deepening relations with partner countries in a stable, sustainable and lasting framework for the sake of common interests: Protecting the world peace and social progress. Seventhly, by means of international integration in defense and security, Vietnam shall enhance and consolidate strategic trust, maintain peaceful and stable environment, cooperate for co-development, build and enhance defense and security of Vietnam and of partners and international friends. Vietnam expects that other countries shall create favorable conditions for Vietnam's international integration in other fields, making international integration in defense and security and international integration in economic, cultural, scientific, education, etc. fields become an unified whole in diplomatic strategy of Vietnamese nation-country with other countries in the world.

In order to well implement aforesaid guidelines, Vietnam has been actively implementing three breakthroughs in international integration and defense and security diplomacy, specifically:

- (a) Building and consolidating peaceful, friendly, cooperative, stable, solid and co-developing relationships, first of all with border-sharing countries of Laos, Cambodia and China;
- (b) Proactively and actively participating in an effective manner in UN peacekeeping operations in accordance with guidelines of the Communist Party of Vietnam and the State of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam; and
- (c) Improving quality of training and fostering of foreign languages (English) and knowledge and professions of defense, security and foreign affairs for cadres of the Vietnam People's Army.

In addition, Vietnam must closely combine military commercial activities, military economic activities, military technical activities, defense and security industrial cooperation activities with defense and security cooperation activities into a unified whole. Also, Vietnam must build the forces directly performing defense related defense tasks to be capable of meeting requirements of international integration in defense and security in the immediate and long term, and make all efforts so that in the year of 2050 international integration in defense and security of Vietnam is basically stable, well-mannered and well-developed. One of the urgent tasks is that

Vietnam has to perfect the system of legal documents on defense, security and foreign affairs in order to better serve defense and security diplomacy. To closely direct the work of ensuring safety and security in the process of international integration and defense diplomacy in Vietnam to catch up with developed countries and this era.

Conclusions

Together with general foreign affairs of Vietnam, international integration in defense and security contributes to building a strong and united ASEAN, protecting and maintaining peaceful and stable environment in the Asia Pacific region and in the world, highlighting image, prestige and position of Vietnam and Vietnam People's Army in the region and in the world. As a result, Vietnam can have support of the international community for the cause of building and protecting the country for peace and social

progress of Vietnam. Together with international integration, international integration in defense and security is creating new resources directly contributing to building Vietnam People's Army to be revolutionary, regular, seasoned, and gradually modernized, increasing combat strength of Vietnam People's Army, enhancing defense and security strength of Vietnam, improving professional competency and capability of leading, directing, managing, executing, advising and organizing foreign affair activities of officials directly involved in the defense and security diplomacy of Vietnam. The consistent viewpoint of Vietnam is that Vietnam attaches great importance to strengthening international integration, maintaining a peaceful and stable environment for national development and achieving the following objectives: Rich people, strong nation, democratic, equitable and civilized society. Vietnam considers this the utmost interest of the country, the utmost goal of Vietnam's defense policy and the consistent guide of Vietnam's opening and international integration, in which international integration in defense and security takes the key position.

International integration in defense and security of Vietnam is aimed at making Vietnam stronger, creating favorable conditions for Vietnam to implement a defense and security policy for peace and self-defense, and not using force or threatening to use force in cooperation, relations and international integration in defense and security. Vietnam hopes to promote international integration in defense and security in order to resolve all disagreements, conflicts and disputes with other countries through peaceful means. By means of international integration in defense and security, Vietnam desires to raise a voice, expressing Vietnam's position, viewpoint and attitudes against arms races, use of force, and war. Vietnam consistently affirms: Vietnam always respects independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity and interests of all nations - countries on the basis of strict observance of international laws and fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations. On the other hand, through international integration in defense and security, Vietnam expects that other countries shall have full and deep understanding of the Vietnamese country and people and Vietnam's for-peace defense and security policy.

Vietnam requires that all countries respect independence, sovereignty, unity, territorial integrity of Vietnam. Also, Vietnam asks other countries to help Vietnam resolve disputes in the South China Sea according to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Vietnam proposes that relevant countries should refrain themselves, strictly implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC); at the same time, proactively and actively develop the Code of Conduct (COC) to thoroughly solve complicated issues in the South China Sea, making South China Sea a sea of peace, friendliness and development, and a place of mutual trust and understanding between Vietnam and other countries. Thus, through international integration in defense and security, Vietnam wants to increase mutual understanding and trust with the people and governments of other countries. This is the best condition for Vietnam to expand cooperation, address existing issues, disputes and disagreements in order to prevent and repel risks of conflicts. Vietnam shall make important contribution to maintaining peace, stability and development in the ASEAN community, the Asia-Pacific region and in the world.

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