

**Joint Statement by Denmark and Viet Nam**  
**on the occasion of the official visit to Denmark by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc**

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At the invitation of Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Denmark, H.E. Lars Løkke Rasmussen, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, H.E. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, paid an official visit to Denmark on 19-20 October 2018.

During the visit, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc held talks with Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and had an audience with Her Majesty Queen Margrethe II.

Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc also joined other Heads of State and Government and delivered a speech at the first ever Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030 (P4G) Summit hosted by Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen.

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1. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the strong and comprehensive development of the bilateral relations between Viet Nam and Denmark. They welcomed the 5-year anniversary of the Comprehensive Partnership between the two countries established in 2013. The two Prime Ministers appreciated that during these five years the bilateral relation had undergone a smooth transformation from traditional development assistance to a full-fledged partnership with strong focus on trade and investment, a stronger political dialogue and constructive cooperation within important fields such as green growth, energy, food & agriculture, education and health. Looking forward to the celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2021, both sides agreed to explore opportunities to advance the partnership further in the future.
2. The two Prime Ministers expressed their satisfaction at the fast-growing economic ties between Denmark and Viet Nam. The total value of bilateral trade in goods had more than quadrupled since 2005 and doubled since 2012. Besides, Danish investments in Viet Nam nearly tripled during the last ten years. The two sides reaffirmed their determination to further strengthening bilateral trade and investment promotion. Possibilities should be explored to increasingly focus on the match between modern Danish strengths and Viet Nam's aim to develop into a modernized and higher middle-income country by 2035. The two Leaders expressed their strong support to the earliest possible signature and ratification of the Viet Nam - EU Free Trade Agreement (EVFTA) and the Viet Nam – EU Investment Protection Agreement (EVIPA), thus opening a larger window of opportunities for businesses of both sides.
3. The two sides appreciated the fact that Danish development assistance and cooperation has contributed to Viet Nam's development success as well as to the growth of economic relations. The two Prime Ministers acknowledged the contribution of the Danida Business Finance programme to the development of the infrastructure system in Viet Nam. The two sides committed to further and stronger cooperation especially within the areas of green growth, renewable energy, water, environment and food safety where Danish companies and institutions possess world-leading expertise, technologies and know-how.
4. The Prime Ministers acknowledged the positive developments of the on-going energy partnership program and emphasized their ambition that the newly signed Memorandum

of Understanding between the Vietnamese Ministry of Industry and Trade and the Danish Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate will contribute positively to the transition in Viet Nam towards a low-carbon and sustainable energy sector. Both sides committed to further enhancing the exchange of knowledge, expertise and technology among ministries, local authorities, experts, private companies and other relevant parties on energy issues, especially within the area of energy sector planning, renewable energy and energy efficiency. One successful achievement in the programme is the launch of the Energy Outlook Report 2017 that together with the Energy Outlook Report 2019 will form the basis of the Vietnamese long-term energy planning in the Power Development Plan.

5. Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc congratulated Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen and the Government of Denmark on the success of the P4G Summit and welcomed the commitments by Denmark to realising the strong potential of the P4G initiative. The two leaders underlined the importance of international partnerships for accelerating a global transition to green economy. They acknowledged the significant steps being taken under the P4G and committed to working actively together to encourage countries, institutions and the private sector to undertake tangible, effective solutions and new models of economic development and thereby contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.
6. The two sides expressed their support for partnerships between Vietnamese and Danish companies and research institutions with a view to enhancing technology transfer, as well as to develop new green technologies. The two leaders agreed to ensure favourable conditions for the establishment and operation of Danish and Vietnamese enterprises in the two markets.
7. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the continued cooperation on technical vocational education and training and the signing of a Letter of Intent for Phase 2 of the Strategic Sector Cooperation between the Vietnamese Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs and the Danish Ministry of Education. Denmark is committed to supporting Viet Nam to develop the required labour skills for its industries that are increasingly competing at the international stage. The aim is to address pressing issues related to gaps between the actual skills and competences of VET college graduates and the skills and competences required by industries in the digital age.
8. The two sides acknowledged the growing people-to-people contacts in the cultural and socio-economic fields between Viet Nam and Denmark and committed to strengthening these links through further promoting cultural exchanges and tourism. The two sides also emphasized the importance of continued cooperation and exchange in achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goal #11 of ‘Sustainable Cities and Communities’.
9. Denmark reaffirmed its interest in helping Viet Nam’s agricultural, fisheries and livestock production towards sustainability. The two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a partnership between the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development and the Danish Ministry of Food and Environment on Food Safety and Sustainable Food production, which identifies inter-linkages between various sectors as well as between public and private sector stakeholders. The aim is to encourage greater coherence and comprehensiveness of the long-term bilateral cooperation on Food Safety and Sustainable Food production in the broadest sense and may include economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development. Furthermore, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the signing of a Letter of Intent on the continuation of the Strategic Sector Cooperation on Food Safety in the Pork Value Chain, continuing the long-term bilateral relation between Viet Nam and Denmark in this area.

10. As economic development and increasingly sedentary lifestyles are challenging populations and health care systems across the globe, the two Prime Ministers expressed support to the ongoing joint efforts to prevent and manage such challenges at the primary health care level. They also expressed support to the ongoing cooperation within training and research and encouraged the exploration of new joint initiatives including e-health solutions.
11. The two Prime Ministers underlined the importance of bilateral cooperation at various multilateral fora, especially the United Nation. Viet Nam commended Denmark on hosting the 18<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) on 22-24 October 2018. Denmark is pleased to support a well-represented delegation from Viet Nam to the 18<sup>th</sup> IACC in Copenhagen. The two Prime Minister also agreed on the importance of promoting the rule of law, good governance, transparency, anti-corruption and human rights.
12. Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen commended Viet Nam on its increasingly active role at the international stage. Viet Nam successfully hosted the APEC Summit in 2017 as well as the World Economic Forum on ASEAN in September 2018. The two Prime Minister agreed to work towards reinforcing regional links between Asia and Europe, especially within the ASEM framework, promoting closer relations between ASEAN and the EU in general and between ASEAN and Denmark in particular.
13. The two Prime Ministers expressed strong support to efforts promoting the cause of peace, stability, cooperation and friendship in Southeast Asia. They reaffirmed the fundamental importance of ensuring the freedoms, rights and duties established in the 1982 UNCLOS, in particular the freedoms of navigation and overflight including in the South China Sea/East Sea and called upon the parties concerned to settle any disputes through peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS, to refrain from conducting unilateral activities that could escalate tensions, to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea/East Sea (DOC) and to move towards an early conclusion of a substantive, effective and comprehensive Code of Conduct (COC)/.