

Viet Nam's consistent policy is to support general and complete disarmament, with top priority given to the prevention of nuclear warfare and the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction with the ultimate aim of their total elimination. At the same time, Viet Nam reaffirms the legitimate right of each state to manufacture, import and retain conventional weapons for its self-defense and security needs, as recognized in relevant international treaties. What is essential is that conventional weapons must not be used indiscriminately and inhumanely, and must not cause disproportionate damage to innocent civilians.

In that spirit, Viet Nam has been an active party to international disarmament treaties and strictly observes the treaties to which she is a party. Moreover, Viet Nam has signed nearly 40 bilateral agreements/treaties covering the manufacture, acquisition, possession, development, transportation and use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. In the field of conventional weapons control, Viet Nam strictly complies with its obligations under the United Nations Registry of Conventional Arms and actively participates in the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Viet Nam has also signed the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW 1981) and shall ratify the Convention when circumstances so permit.

Having suffered from warfare (with much damage done by cluster munitions), Viet Nam shares the humanitarian concerns of the international community over the effects of cluster munitions, and supports international efforts to help victims of cluster munitions and assist countries in their endeavours to recover from the damage caused by cluster munitions and to foster social and economic development. Viet Nam takes note of the goodwill and the spirit of humanity with which states and international organizations are working towards an international instrument that regulates this particular weapon. Viet Nam believes that, as any other international treaty on disarmament, the development of such an instrument should involve a broad range of countries and take into account the specific characters as well as the legitimate needs to manufacture, import and retain conventional weapons for self-defence and security purposes of each state.