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MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS OF FINLAND

**18<sup>th</sup> Session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review**

**Finland's recommendations to Vietnam  
5 February 2014**

Mr. President,

Finland welcomes the delegation of Vietnam to the UPR and thanks for the presentation of the national report today.

Finland congratulates Vietnam on its election to the UN Human Rights Council and recognizes Vietnam's achievements in decreasing poverty and improving access to health care and education.

Whilst Vietnam strives to achieve information technology society, freedom of expression continues to be of concern. ***Could you further elaborate how freedom of expression online is ensured in Vietnam's legislation?***

**Finland makes the following recommendations**

- 1) take steps to amend its Penal Code to ensure that it cannot be applied in an arbitrary manner to prevent freedom of expression.
- 2) ensure that Decree 72, *governing the management, provision and use of Internet services and information online*, is implemented in such a way that it does not limit individuals' rights to voice their opinions online.

Thank you.