

Statement by
H.E. AMBASSADOR NGUYEN PHUONG NGA
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
At a screening of “Chau, Beyond the Lines”
in the historic Trusteeship Council chamber at the United Nations in New York

Madam Cristina Gallach, Under Secretary – General of the United Nations

Excellencies, my dear colleagues Ambassadors,

Friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Good evening and welcome to the special screening of Oscar-nominated short documentary “Chau, Beyond the Lines”. I am thankful and deeply moved by the great turnout tonight. Your attendance is a valuable source of encouragement for us.

This event tonight is very special, at least for three important reasons.

1. It is special because “Chau, Beyond the Lines” is a special story. It is a story of hardships, of difficulties, but also of hope, determination, of courage, perseverance, and most importantly of daring to dream no matter what. The film will speak for itself and will tell this story in its own beautiful way.

2. It is special for the extraordinary collaboration between the Permanent Mission of Viet Nam and the US Mission to the United Nations. This is reflective of the broader cooperation between Viet Nam and the United States in addressing the legacies of war, including the issue of Agent Orange/dioxin.

Indeed, this is the first time that someone affected by Agent Orange/dioxin from Viet Nam comes and speaks here at the United Nations. Please join me in welcoming Le Minh Chau, who came half way across the globe from Ho Chi Minh City to be here with us today.

3. And this event is special because of the true partnerships that was essential in putting it together. We could not have been able to organize this if it weren't for the engagement and support of the Governments of Viet Nam and the United States, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations and private sector.

So allow me to take this opportunity to thank the US Mission for co-hosting tonight's event.

My thanks also go to our sponsors: the US Fund for UNICEF, the War Legacies Project, the Central Mennonite Committee, Vietjet Air and Vietinbank.

I thank the UN Secretariat and its staff as well as colleagues of my Mission. They have done their best to make our event tonight possible.

And finally, a very special welcome and words of thanks to two important people: Courtney Marsh, Director of “Chau, Beyond the Lines”, and Jerry Franck, its producer. Thank you for telling Chau's story.

Thank you and I wish you an enjoyable evening.