Deputy Foreign Minister Dzung, speakers, ambassadors, friends and colleagues!

First of all a thank you to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Vietnam, Ambassador Nga and the whole ASEAN team for organizing this very timely and constructive workshop. A thank you to the Norwegian team working closely with MOFA on developing the programme and the concept of the workshop. In addition, not at least a very big thank you to all the speakers giving substance, identifying key challenges and providing concrete recommendations. The pandemic has for sure changed our ways of working. However, it has not changed the imperative of ensuring women’s inclusion in peace and security.

**There are some important take aways from the workshop:**

**Firstly**, the workshop shows Viet Nam’s and ASEAN’s sincere wishes to further promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda in ASEAN but also globally. It showcases the contribution of ASEAN as well as its individual Member States to the implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

**Secondly**, the workshop has enhanced information exchange between key stakeholders within the women, peace and security agenda as well as identified the potentials of ASEAN’s women pool of experts in peace and security, such as the ASEAN Women Peace Registry. This workshop should be seen as an important step to further capacity building of this network of women mediators and peace builders. As a sector dialogue partner to ASEAN, celebrating our 5-year anniversary, Norway stands ready to share our experiences in peace diplomacy with ASEAN and its member states.

**But let me conclude by highlighting some key points:**

**Inclusive peace processes are more likely to produce sustainable and lasting results responsive to a diverse set of needs**. While progress has been achieved in many areas, women remain underrepresented at all stages of mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. Much remains to be done.

**Women need to be part of delegations to peace talks at all stages and levels.**

**All peace negotiations should be informed by a gender perspective** to ensure the needs of the whole population are considered.

**Consultations with women’s organisations should be conducted regularly. We need to link local initiatives to formal peace talks.**

**Security assessments need to address the security of women**, including conflict-related sexual and gender based violence.

**The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated conflicts and inequalities worldwide**. We should not let it constitute a setback for hard-won progress on women’s and girls’ rights. We must work to ensure that our societies emerge more resilient, equal and inclusive.

**Inclusive peace processes is not only the right thing to do. It will make our peace efforts more effective and promote sustainable and lasting peace.**

Thank you!