

SPEECH
BY H.E. MR. NGUYEN QUOC DZUNG,
ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIR
AT THE 72TH ESCAP SESSION
(Bangkok, May 18th 2016)

Your Excellency Mr. Chairman,
Your Excellency Madame Under Secretary-General, Executive
Secretary of ESCAP
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, allow me, on behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, to congratulate Your Excellency Mr. Qohir Rasulzoda on your election as the Chairperson of the 72nd Session of the Commission. I also would like to thank the Government of Thailand and the ESCAP Secretariat for your diligent preparations and excellent arrangements for this Session.

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Our Session this year takes place at a time when the world economy sees its slowest growth rate in the post-Global Financial Crisis period. Uneven growth between countries and groups of countries continue to increase. It is not an exception for Asia-Pacific while the region is even faced with other challenges such as poverty, inequality, natural disasters, climate change, environmental degradation, water insecurity and so on.

Given its increasing openness, the Vietnamese economy is affected by the volatility of the world economy. We have made great efforts in maintaining macroeconomic stability, ensuring social security, restructuring the economy and transforming the growth model. However, there remain challenges facing us. Macroeconomic fundamentals are not yet entirely firm. Human resource development and application of science and technology

remain poor. The rich and poor gap remains significant between population groups and regions. In addition, we have to shoulder issues brought about by climate change as well as water and food security challenges. Right now, about two million Vietnamese people, especially in the South Central, Central Highlands and the Mekong Delta regions are hit by the most serious drought and saline intrusion in ninety years. During his recent trip to Vietnam, on May 5, UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson visited the most severely affected localities and emphasized that he will bring up this issue at the upcoming Humanitarian Summit in Turkey this month. He also promised to call upon the international community to provide emergency humanitarian assistance to the Vietnamese people living in the affected areas.

Against this backdrop, like other developing countries in the region, Viet Nam calls for ESCAP's assistance to overcome these challenges and realize important development agreements that the international community has approved in 2015, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change. To these ends, we would like to recommend four major actions to be undertaken as follows:

First, as highlighted by the theme chosen for this Session, ESCAP's activities should promote international cooperation and assistance for developing countries to narrow the technology gap.

Second, strengthening intra- and inter-regional connectivity, including maritime connectivity should be of ESCAP's high priority. Viet Nam believes that promoting maritime connectivity, while ensuring the maritime security and safety, plays an important role in the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Third, ESCAP's cooperation with regional partners, including the ASEAN Community should be strengthened. In

responding to increasing challenges of water security, ESCAP needs to work more closely with the Mekong River Commission - an organization playing a critical role in the cooperation to manage water resources of the Mekong river - thereby contributing to the sustainable development in the region.

Fourth, peace and development are the two sides of the coin. Sustainable Development Goals cannot be achieved in the event of war, conflict and instability. Therefore, the maintenance of peace and security on the basis of respect for international law is a prerequisite for the successful implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. We need to promote a satisfactory settlement of conflicts and disputes by peaceful means, on the basis of international law, equal and mutually beneficial cooperation among countries.

*Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

For our part, as emphasized by the President of Viet Nam at the UN Summit in September last year, Viet Nam supports and commits to use all necessary resources to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. We will make active and responsible contributions to the joint efforts to ensure that no one is left behind in this process.

Since the beginning of this year, Viet Nam has assumed its membership of the ECOSOC for the term 2016-2018 and actively participated in the work of the Council. This July, we intend to attend the High-Level ECOSOC Segment at unprecedented high level. Viet Nam will work with other regional ECOSOC members to raise the voice and promote the priorities of the Asia-Pacific region at ECOSOC, and uphold the role and contribution of ESCAP in promoting socio-economic development in the region.

Thank you for your attention. /.