

STATEMENT BY H.E. MR. NGUYEN THE PHUONG
Vice Minister of Planning and Investment, Head of Viet Nam Delegation to the
High-level Political Forum of the UN ECOSOC

Your Excellency, Ms. Marie Chatardová, President of ECOSOC,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my great honor, on behalf of Viet Nam, to be here today presenting Viet Nam's first Voluntary National Review. My presentation is structured into five parts, including a brief introduction on Viet Nam's SDG implementation and VNR development; a summary of the key SDG results in Viet Nam, focusing on five SDGs of this 2018 HLPF theme; means for SDGs achievement; the challenges; and finally, the way forward to achieve the SDGs in Viet Nam.

1. I would like to start by emphasizing Viet Nam has a strong commitment in pursuing sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are fully in line with the long-term development strategy of Viet Nam. In May 2017, the Government of Viet Nam issued the SDG National Action Plan in which the SDGs are nationalized into 17 Viet Nam Sustainable Development Goals (or VSDGs) and 115 VSDG targets. Viet Nam's VNR has been prepared in 2018 based on intensive and extensive consultations as well as constructive participation from all stakeholders including vulnerable group to ensure leaving no one behind.

2. Viet Nam has made significant achievements in poverty reduction, health insurance coverage, primary net enrolment, access to electricity, and access to safe water. Viet Nam has also achieved improvements in the protection and management of the environment and natural resources. Gender equality has become a cross-cutting issue in all political, economic, cultural, and social spheres. The country is on the pathway to reduce inequality and improve access to justice and information.

Regarding *SDG 6* on water and sanitation, we are able to increase the number of households accessing sources of drinking water annually, hitting 93.4 per cent in 2016. Nevertheless, water pollution remains a big challenge for Viet Nam. Achieving the SDG 6 targets by 2030 are challenging for Viet Nam.

In implementing *SDG 7* on affordable and clean energy, as of 2016, more than 99 per cent of households have access to electricity. However, Viet Nam still lags behind regarding energy efficiency and limited use of non-hydropower renewable energy.

For the *SDG 11*, the national average housing area per person increased from 16.7 square meter in 2009 to 23.4 square meter in 2017. We are making progress in supporting people with disabilities with all buses having priority seats. Rural infrastructure has been enhanced with approximately 99 per cent of communes having roads to centres, connections to the national electric grid, primary schools, preschools and health clinics. However, being one of the countries most affected by natural disasters and climate change has created huge difficulties in making human settlements resilient and sustainable.

For the *SDG 12*, the strategy on Cleaner Industrial Production has been implemented nationwide, attracting the participation of more than 9,000 enterprises. Viet Nam has started to use “green” and energy saving labels for electric and electronic products, and is applying sustainable public procurement practices in accordance with relevant green economy standards. Nevertheless, sustainable consumption and production activities remain fragmented with small-scale impacts.

Noticeable achievements in *SDG 15* on life on land have been seen. Forest coverage has been increased rapidly to 41.5 per cent in 2017. Viet Nam has developed a database on genetic resources and traditional knowledge. However, the population of wild species continues to decline, with regulations to combat alien invasive organisms yet to be formulated.

3. Regarding *the means for SDG achievement*, Viet Nam emphasizes and is applying the “whole-of-society” approach which engages all stakeholders, with a special attention to mobilize participation and contribution of the private sector, NGOs, and other organizations. Viet Nam has established the National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement. The Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development has been also formed to promote the business sector’s engagement in SDG implementation.

The Government of Viet Nam is fully aware that the SDG implementation comes at a significant cost. Therefore, a priority has been given to the allocation of Government budget for implementing the SDGs. We also consider ODA, FDI, remittances are important sources for SDG implementation in Viet Nam. To achieve success in 17 SDGs, Viet Nam will continue to enhance mobilization of all resources, especially from the private sector and promote public finance.

Viet Nam has been formulating the National Roadmap and Indicator System for SDG Monitoring & Evaluation. Our recent feasibility review of 232 global SDG statistical indicators shows that only 123 indicators are feasible in Viet Nam.

Many SDG indicators do not have metadata, must be newly collected, with complicated calculation methods, and/or with data from non-conventional sources.

4. Despite the initial SDG achievements, Viet Nam is facing various difficulties and challenges in SDG implementation, such as climate change environmental degradation and others. SDG implementation demands huge financial inputs, while the State budget remains limited. There are also challenges in monitoring and reporting SDG progress.

5. Viet Nam identifies the following next steps for SDG achievement:

- Enhance SDG awareness among all stakeholders at all levels;
- Involve all stakeholders in implementing SDGs and promote coordination among stakeholders;
- Formulate a system of statistical indicators for SDG Monitoring & Evaluation;
- Enhance resource mobilization, especially from private sector;
- Integrate SDGs into annual and five-year Socio-economic development plans, strategies and sectoral and local policies;
- Strengthen international cooperation to promote technical and financial support and knowledge transfers for SDG implementation;

Thank you for your attention. I wish you good health and happiness.

Vietnam -- Video transcript

Vietnam - a land of staggering natural beauty and rich cultural heritage.

With incredible diversity from north to south, the vibrant country has many unique charms to offer.

With a population of 93 million people, Viet Nam has made impressive progress in fulfilling many Millennium Development Goals. This success has built a solid foundation for implementation of the SDGs - The nation has made it a top priority to support the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development.

Vietnam's high level of commitment has been highlighted by a top Vietnamese leader:

Former State President TRUONG TAN SANG

"Chúng ta có mặt tại đây để bày tỏ cam kết và ủng hộ mạnh mẽ một Chương trình nghị sự toàn cầu về phát triển có tính bước ngoặt."

We are gathered here today to express our strongest commitment and support for a truly transformational global development agenda.

Vietnam's efforts to evolve into a more sustainable and resilient society have paid off and impressive achievements have been made towards fulfilling its sustainable development goals. Significantly in a number of areas:

(1) Multi-dimensional poverty rate fell from 9.88% in 2015 to below 7% in 2017 (NO POVERTY)

(3) 73% of the population having access to essential health services. Health insurance coverage reaching 86.4% in 2017 (GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING)

(4) The Primary Net Enrollment Rate at 98% (2016-2017) and the primary completion rate (2016-2017) at 99.65% (QUALITY EDUCATION)

(8) Annual GDP growth of 5-6% over the last decade (DECENT WORK & ECONOMIC GROWTH)

Although tangible results have been made, achieving the 2030 Agenda is not without its challenges. Vietnam is one of the most affected countries by climate change. The country is also facing many social, environmental as well as other interconnected and emerging challenges.

These challenges further highlight the need for the nation to enhance its resilience, sustainability, and inclusivity, to ensure that no one is left behind.

Going forward, all of Vietnam's stakeholders are committed to implementing the 2030 agenda for the common good of the people:

+UN Resident Coordinator:

KAMAL MALHOTRA

UN Resident Coordinator in Viet Nam

Viet Nam has been pioneering leader of UN reform at the country level for the last decade and an early achiever of most of the MDGs. It is now strongly committed to leaving no one behind and to achieving the SDGs. This Voluntary National Review with UN's support is a strong testimony to Vietnam's commitment.

+VCCI:

NGUYEN QUANG VINH

Secretary General, Vietnam Business Council for Sustainable Development

Realising the importance of the private sector's participation, in Vietnam, we are establishing a lot of private-public partnerships and mobilising a lot of business solutions to advance the 17 SDGs in the years to come.

+NGO representative:

NGUYEN NGOC LY

Director, Centr for Environment and Community Research

NGOs have a strong role to promote participation and to bring voices of all citizens to act, to connect and to effectively contribute to implementation of local SDGs

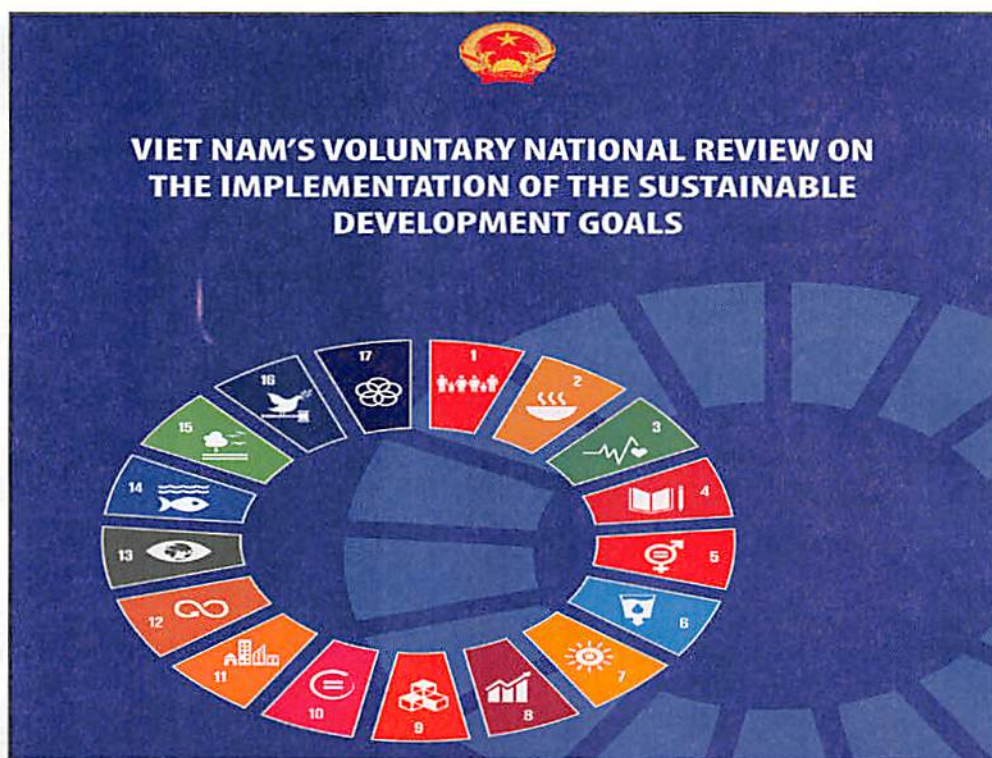
+MPI:

NGUYEN CHI DZUNG

Minister of Planning and Investment

Việt Nam tin tưởng sẽ thực hiện thành công chương trình nghị sự 2030 vì cuộc sống an toàn và tốt đẹp hơn của người dân Việt Nam cũng như là nhân loại thế giới. Việt Nam cam kết sẽ tiếp tục thực hiện đầy đủ những vai trò, trách nhiệm của mình trong cộng đồng quốc tế trong nỗ lực chung để không một cá nhân nào hay một đất nước nào bị tụt lại phía sau.

Vietnam is confident that we will successfully implement the 2030 agenda for a safer and better life for the Vietnamese people as well as for human kind. Vietnam is committed to fulfill its roles and responsibilities to the international community in joining effort to make sure that no individual or country is left behind.



CONTENTS

- Introduction
- Results of SDG Implementation in Viet Nam
- Means for SDG Achievement
- Challenges
- Way Forward

INTRODUCTION

Viet Nam's Implementation of Agenda 2030

- Strong political commitment
- The 2030 Agenda fully in line with Viet Nam's long-term development strategy
- SDG National Action Plan: nationalized VSDGs

Viet Nam's First VNR

- Shares initial SDG progress and experience with the international community
- Engages all stakeholders
- Raises SDG awareness and mobilizes participation and contribution of different stakeholders



RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

Overall assessment:

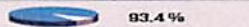
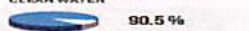
- ✓ Significant achievements on Poverty reduction; Health insurance coverage; Enrolment rate; Access to electricity; Access to safe water...
- ✓ Improvements in the protection and management of the environment and natural resources.
- ✓ Gender equality has become a cross-cutting issue in all political, economic, cultural and social spheres.
- ✓ Reduction in inequality and improved access to justice and information.
- ✓ Viet Nam's deeper and more comprehensive international integration as well as our enhanced position at multilateral fora.



RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

06 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

RATIO OF HOUSEHOLDS ACCESSING CLEAN WATER



With an average annual rate of 0.51%, it is estimated that the target of 100% could be met by 2022.

RATIO OF HOUSEHOLDS USING SANITARY LATRINES



With an average annual rate of 1.04%, it is estimated that the target of 100% could be met by 2022.

PROPORTION OF POPULATION SUPPLIED WITH WATER THROUGH THE CONCENTRATED WATER SYSTEM IN 2017

RURAL



(Optimized through many investment programmes and projects funded by many sources)

URBAN



(An increase of 1% compared to the end of 2016. The ratio of water losses was 2.0%, 1.9% less than last year with demand of urbanization)

8 WETLANDS HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED AS RAMSAR SITES

2016



Included parks meet built waste and wastewater treatment standards



Hospitals had sewage treatment systems

2017

41

Concentrated wastewater treatment plants were in operation with a total design capacity of 650,000 m³/day-night

12

The ratio of collected and treated wastewater is 1.2%

60

Wastewater treatment plants are being designed or constructed with total designed capacity of 2.2 million m³/day-night

44

44/701 municipalities have sewage treatment facilities

THE TARGET SET FOR THE 2030 IS QUITE AMBITIOUS FOR VIET NAM TO ACHIEVE

Water environmental pollution in river basins is a big challenge for Viet Nam.

Viet Nam has proposed the establishment of four river basin organizations and has effectively implemented of cooperation activities with member countries of the Mekong River Commission.

Water resources planning for 2020-2035 nationwide is being developed.

RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

99%

PROVIDING THE BEST OPPORTUNITIES TO ACCESS TO ELECTRICITY
Viet Nam could reach the goal of ensuring access to affordable energy sources for all citizens by 2030

VIET NAM'S ELECTRICITY ACCESS INDEX IN 2017 (According to World Bank's research)

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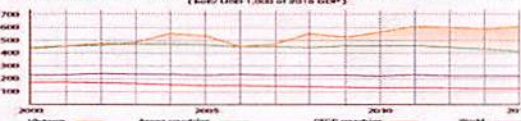
Increase 32 grades compared to 2010

84th/188 countries

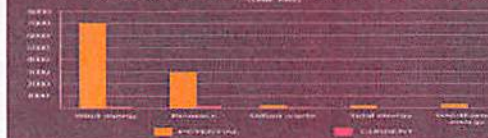
VIET NAM'S ELECTRICITY ACCESS INDEX IS SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN THE AVERAGE OF ASEAN COUNTRIES

EXCEEDS WORLD'S AVERAGE

ENERGY USE INTENSITY IN VIET NAM AND OTHER COUNTRIES BETWEEN 2000-2014 (Unit: 1,000 t, 1,000 of 2010 US\$)



POTENTIAL TO DEVELOP SOME TYPES OF RENEWABLE ENERGY IN VIET NAM (Unit: MW)



77 WIND ENERGY PROJECTS

REGISTERED IN 18 PROVINCES WITH 7,000 MW

03/77

48.2 MW

0.4%

VND 28,000 BILLION

With total investment of VND 28,000 billion, the Programme of supplying electricity to rural, remote areas and mountainous areas during 2013-2020 aims to supply electricity to 12,140 villages without electricity nationwide.

23

Currently, the wind-solar hybrid projects (2016-2020) will meet approximately 2% of the Program's demand for capital investment. The remaining fund to the extent from KfA, foreign loans and other sources.

2%

Recently, the European Union (EU) has approved loan fund to implement the Programme to support energy storage, smart grid and enhance access to sustainable energy in rural, mountainous and remote areas with 80 sub-projects in 23 provinces.

However, until now nearly 2% of households in remote areas nationwide have no access to electricity and several tens of thousands of rural, mountainous and remote areas remain unlit.

RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

VIET NAM IS EXPERIENCING STRONGEST URBAN DEVELOPMENT THAN EVER BEFORE



GIVEN SUCH ACHIEVEMENTS, THE REALIZATION OF SDG 11.1 IS FEASIBLE

Historic, safe and affordable housing remains a problem for poor and near-poor households due to high costs compared to their income.

IN 2017, THERE WERE:

- 2,500** OLD APARTMENT BLOCKS BUILT BEFORE 1964 (ABOUT 3,000,000 m²)
- > 600** DAMAGED BLOCKS



TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- 65%** TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE ENSURE ACCESSIBILITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES
- 100%** BUSES HAVE PRIORITY SEATS
- 57.6%** NATIONAL RAILWAY STATIONS ARE CONVENIENT FOR PEOPLE WHO USE WHEELCHAIRS

Long time reserved for urban transport (especially in big cities) has not met relevant national standards. Traffic in Viet Nam is not yet safe, accessible nor sustainable.

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RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

THE STRATEGY ON CLEANER INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION HAS BEEN WIDELY IMPLEMENTED



SAVING ENERGY



GREEN LABELING



09 Product groups had green labeling criteria

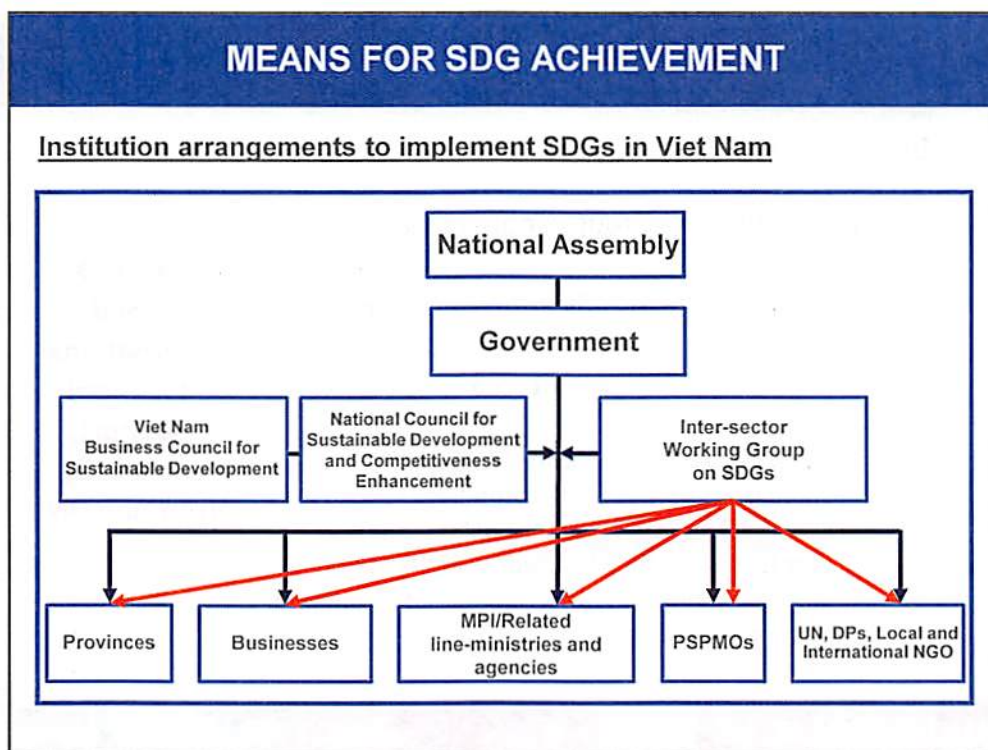
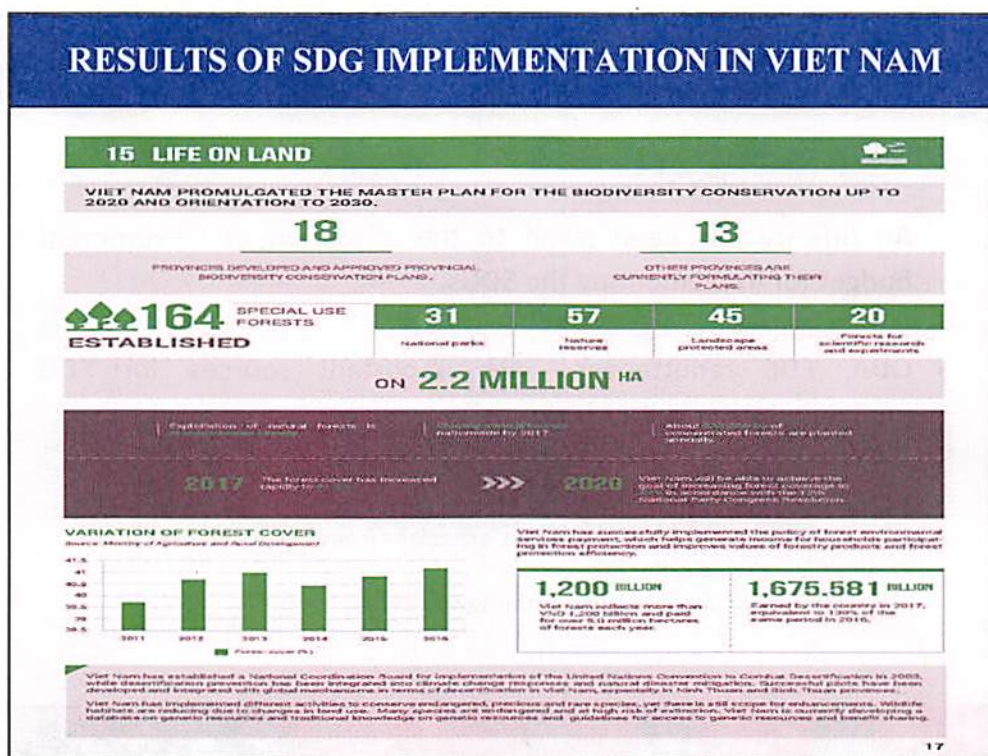
04 Product groups have granted with green label

The Vietnam Green Labeling (VGL) has been implemented by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOC) to encourage and reward green products, especially in Viet Nam.

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MEANS FOR SDG ACHIEVEMENT

Financial Resources

- ✓ An priority has been given to the allocation of Government budget for implementing the SDGs.
- ✓ ODA, FDI, remittances... are important sources for SDG implementation in Viet Nam.
- ✓ Viet Nam will continue to:
 - Enhance resource mobilization, especially from the private sector.
 - Promote public finance.
 - Effectively use of existing resources.



MEANS FOR SDG ACHIEVEMENT

Statistical Capacity

- ✓ Statistical Working Group for SDG M&E
- ✓ Roadmap and Indicator System for SDG M&E
- ✓ The feasibility review of 232 global SDG indicators:
 - Only 123 indicators: feasible, either with available data or needing compiling.
 - Many SDG indicators: do not have metadata, must be newly collected, with complicated calculation methods, and/or with data from non-conventional sources.

→ → →
**Need
 international
 technical
 support,
 especially
 from the UN.**



CHALLENGES

- Viet Nam is one of the countries most affected by climate change.
- Viet Nam is facing many social, environmental as well as other emerging challenges.
- SDG implementation demands huge financial inputs, while the State budget remains limited.
- The inter-linkages of SDGs require more integrated and inter-sectoral policies and measures, and improved coordination.
- Challenges in monitoring and reporting SDG progress while the statistical capacity is still limited.



NEXT STEPS

- Enhance SDG awareness
- Promote innovative and integrated solutions
- Further engagement of all stakeholders
- Formulate a robust sys. of stat. indicators and data collection
- Enhance resource mobilization, esp. from private sector
- Integrate SDGs into SEDPs, SEDS, policies
- Strengthen international cooperation



LEAVING NO ONE BEHIND



THANK YOU
Xin cảm ơn!

