

Statement by H.E.Mr Nguyen Hong Cuong, Ambassador of Viet Nam to New Zealand, Fiji and Samoa at the Third Conference on SIDS

(Samoa, 1-4 September 2014)

Mr Chairman,

It is an honour and privilege for me to represent the Government of Viet Nam to attend and speak at this important Conference.

With the theme “sustainable development of small island development States through genuine and durable partnerships”, this Conference has already underlined the importance of enhancing international cooperation in support of SIDS for sustainable development.

It is obvious that the attainment of sustainable development for all countries, including SIDS, is primarily the responsibility of each states. However, SIDS remain a special case for sustainable development in view of their unique and particular vulnerabilities and therefore they need a special treatment. Their multiple challenges have been highlighted by many previous speakers, which range from economic and social factors to non-traditional security issues, especially the adverse impacts of climate change.

We recognize that SIDS have made enormous efforts at national, regional and international levels to overcome these challenges and move the sustainable development agenda forward with a view to achieving, among others, the sustainable economic growth, prosperity and social progress for their peoples. The adoption of the Samoa Pathway at this conference is another indication of their determination to attain their ambitious goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. Significant progress has been made in their way to the sustainable development, but major and long-term challenges still remain, due to their unique vulnerabilities and limited resources.

Viet Nam, therefore, strongly supports the call for more global efforts to advance the sustainable development for SIDS and to intensify international cooperation based on genuine and durable partnership in supporting the sustainable development of SIDS through concrete and practical programmes. We also share

the view that it is crucial for SIDS to receive more finance, technology and capacity-building support from developed country partners and relevant international institutions.

Viet Nam fully supports SIDS' efforts for sustainable development and international cooperation for this goal and looks forward to working closely with SIDS at the bilateral and tripartite levels in this endeavour. We stand ready to share experiences and best practices in addressing challenges to sustainable development, including those in mitigation and adaption to climate change. We also want to strengthen our cooperation and mutual support with SIDS at multilateral forums, especially at the United Nations.

We share the concern and interest of SIDS in addressing the challenge of climate change and its adverse impacts, especially the rise of sea-level. However, this is the common challenge to not only SIDS, but also all other countries in the world. Protecting climate change is the responsibility of all countries on the basis of equity and in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities as provided in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

UNFCCC and Kyoto Protocol continue to serve as the basis legal framework for addressing this challenge by the international community. We look forward to the possible adoption of another legal instrument in 2015, which continues to respect and ensure fundamental principles of UNFCCC.

To conclude, I wish to stress that SIDS are not alone in their efforts to pursue the sustainable development agenda.

Thank you for your attention.