Speech by Vietnam Planning and Investment Deputy Minister HE. Mrs. Nguyen Thi Bich Ngoc

(At the High-Level Session of the United Nations High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development - July, 2021)

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In compliance with international commitments, Vietnam has actively nationalized 2030 sustainable development goals with a system of 158 statistical indicators to monitor and evaluate the progress of implementing these goals.

Vietnam has just completed its first nation-wide SDG report to review the 5-year progress towards SDGs' goals. According to the 2019 year-end data, Vietnam is expected to achieve 5 out of 17 goals by 2030, including: Goal 1, 2, 4, 13 and 17. However, our country still faces many challenges regarding the remaining goals – especially Goal 12 on sustainable production and consumption, and Goal 14 on the conservation and sustainable exploitation of oceans and seas.

In its pre-pandemic era, the world has made progress in implementing SDGs, but these advances were not enough to achieve desirable results by 2030. Even before this global phenomenon occurred, the 2021 Asia-Pacific SDG Progress Report by UNESCAP indicated less than 10 percent of SDG's targets would have been met. In particular, COVID-19 currently, and negatively, affects Vietnam's decade-long mission of maintaining and promoting the achievement of SDGs.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

To date, the Covid-19 Pandemic has taken over three million lives, upended all aspects of human life and devastated the global economy. While the world slowly recovers from these un'precedented times, we must continue to pursue sustainable socio-economics and environmental growth – in a steadfast manner, similar to how countries effectively respond to the COVID crisis.

Vietnam supports, but also urges the United Nations for persistence in its inclusive recovery programs towards reducing carbon emissions, conserving national resources, generating jobs, promoting gender equality and narrowing social inequalities and gaps between countries and regions.

Thank you for your time.