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TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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STATEMENT BY H.E DANG DINH QUY,
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF VIET NAM
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE TO SUPPORT THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 14

(New York, 05-09 June 2017)

Your Excellency Mr. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Co-Presidents,

Excellencies, Distinguish Delegates, Ladies, and Gentlemen,

1. First and foremost, on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the United Nations for organizing this very important Conference.

2. Viet Nam is a coastal state and among countries most severely affected by the adverse impacts of climate change, especially the sea-level rise and extreme weather events. Viet Nam has increasingly suffered adverse impacts of maritime pollution and marine resource depletion.

3. We, therefore, strongly support all efforts of the international community for conservation and sustainable use of seas, oceans and marine resources. We also highly commend the Conference's draft "Call for Action" which emphasizes our commitments and the necessity of the prevention of marine pollution, the protection of marine eco-systems, sustainable fisheries, capacity building, transfer of marine technology and the implementation of international law as reflected in the 1982 United Nation Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Co-Presidents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. My delegation fully shares the view that the implementation of Goal 14 requires strong partnership and cooperation among and between governments, enterprises, international and regional organizations as well as all other stakeholders. The legal basis for this partnership and activities should be the universally recognized interpretation and application of international law, particularly the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). Since there exist numerous areas of disputed water in the world, the compliance

to and the implementation of duties under UNCLOS would ensure maritime security and safety, and create a peaceful marine environment as cooperation and partnership would not be possible without peace and stability.

5. We stress the importance of the active participation of the local communities, especially women and youth, poor and disadvantaged people in reducing the activities that cause marine pollution. The implementation of Goal 14 should be linked inextricably with the realization of other SDGs, especially ending poverty, so that the poor people living in coastal areas could enjoy a better life and be empowered to take part in restoring the health, productivity, and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems.

Co-Presidents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. To successfully implement our "Call for Action," we would like to highlight the importance of some following measures:

Firstly, to raise the awareness in the society, especially local communities, of the need for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, sea, and marine resources.

Secondly, to promote cooperative mechanisms at international, regional and sub-regional levels, especially in disputed waters, for the maintenance of peace, stability, and development.

Thirdly, to encourage developed countries to enhance capacity building, transfer of modern marine technology to SIDS, developing and least-developed countries, to help strengthen their ocean-based sustainable economies, resilience to climate change and contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and seas.

Co-Presidents,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Viet Nam has integrated the SDGs into its national development plans and strategies. We have enacted the National Action Plan to implement SDGs of the 2030 Agenda, including Goal 14. Within the framework of this Conference, Viet Nam has committed to implement the project "Development of Locally Managed Areas for Restoration and Sustainable Use of Coastal Eco-systems with Involvement of Local Stakeholders." We will continue to register other voluntary commitments to implement Goal 14.

We fully believe that with our commitments, by acting together, we will realize all targets of Goal 14, successfully conserve and sustainably use our oceans for present and future generations.

Thank you very much for your attention./.