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)
2. 73% of the population having access to essential health services. Health insurance coverage reaching 86.4% in 2017 (GOOD HEALTH & WELL-BEING)
3. The Primary Net Enrollment Rate at 98% (2016-2017) and the primary completion rate (2016-2017) at 99.65% (QUALITY EDUCATION)
4. 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, Centre 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
Viet 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.
VIET NAM’S VOLUNTARY NATIONAL REVIEW ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate of Households Accessing Clean Water</th>
<th>Rate of Households Using Sanitary Latrines</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>99.5%</td>
<td>75.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>89.4%</td>
<td>83.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2032</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
<td>94.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- Rural: 54.3%
- Urban: 84.9%

VND 28,000 BILLION

RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

07 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

- VND 28,000 BILLION
- 23
- 2%

- VND 16,000 BILLION
- 11
- 1%

- VND 35,000 BILLION
- 23
- 2%

- VND 7,000 BILLION
- 23
- 2%

03/77

Energy consumption per capita in Vietnam is significantly lower than the average worldwide.
RESULTS OF SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN VIET NAM

15 LIFE ON LAND

VIET NAM PROMULGATED THE MASTER PLAN FOR THE BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION UP TO 2020 AND ORIENTATION TO 2030.

18

13

164 SPECIAL USE FORESTS

ESTABLISHED

31 57 45 20

ON 2.2 MILLION HA

VARIATION OF FOREST COVER

Source: Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

2012

2020

1.200 BILLION

1.675.581 BILLION

Viet Nam has successfully implemented the policy of forest environmental protection with the recognition of national and international values of forest products and forest ecosystems.

MEANS FOR SDG ACHIEVEMENT

Institution arrangements to implement SDGs in Viet Nam

National Assembly

Government

Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development

National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement

Inter-sector Working Group on SDGs

Provinces

Businesses

MPI/Related line-ministries and agencies

PSPMOs

UN, DPs, Local and International NGO
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!