

**The Socialist Republic of Vietnam**

THEMATIC DISCUSSION: WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates,

It is my great honor to take part in the 18<sup>th</sup> session of UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD18), and on behalf of Vietnam delegation I would like to share our experience during the thematic discussion on waste management.

Effective management of waste including hazardous waste is essential to sustainable development. Therefore, to move towards efficiently waste management, in a sustainable way is a goal that our government tries to reach.

Population growth, urbanization and economic development during the past decade has led to the rapid increase of waste volume in Vietnam. Viet Nam produces over 15 million tons of waste each year from various sources. About 160,000 tons/year (1 percent) of Viet Nam's waste is considered hazardous. Urban areas contain only about 24 percent of population of the country, but produce over 50 percent of the country's municipal waste. Most of the municipal waste is not safely disposed. The dominant form of disposal of municipal waste remains open dumping; Of the 91 disposal sites in the country, only 17 are sanitary landfills. Poorly operated landfills and open dump sites caused environmental problems and created impact on health, livelihoods of surrounding communities.

The government of Vietnam has promulgated the Strategy for waste management to the year 2020. We also actively participated in international conventions such as Basel Conventions and are undertaking actions to implement of convention. Priorities of our government are to improve investment and operations for municipal waste management services; to improve cost recovery and sustainability of investment; enhancing hazardous waste management regulations and practices; to improve institutional effectiveness, monitoring and enforcement; creating incentives for waste minimisation and recycling; engaging communities in waste management. We are now considering public-private partnership approach in infrastructure investment including waste management infrastructure.

3R (re-use, recycling, recovery) actions are being implemented in big cities of Vietnam with the support from Japan's Government, waste treatment infrastructure is being developed in urban areas using domestic fund and official development assistance (ODA) from different donors. Recent investments have established enough incinerator capacity to treat 50 percent of hazardous healthcare waste.

Challenges facing the countries now are (i) lack of finance for waste management infrastructure investment; (ii) The gap between waste management policy and legislation and regulations are not effectively enforced; (iii) Lack of technical staff; (iv) Civil society plays a limited role in waste management.

Mr. Chairman,

In order to achieve millennium development goals (MDGs) as well as sustainable development goals, we need the international cooperation and assistance from developed countries in terms of technical and finance to solve the problem of waste management.

Effective and environmentally sound waste management requires immediate attention from national and local government.

Together with countries worldwide, Vietnam will make more effort to realize the sustainable development goal and cooperate with the international community to build a safer, more prosperous and sustainable world in the future.

Thank you for your attention.