

STATEMENT BY H.E AMBASSADOR LE HOAI TRUNG, PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF VIET NAM TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON BEHALF OF BHUTAN, THAILAND AND VIET NAM

*At the Fifth Session of the General Assembly Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
(New York, 25 -27 November, 2013)*

Sustained and inclusive economic growth, macroeconomic policy questions (including international trade, international financial system and external debt sustainability), infrastructure development and industrialization

Mr. Co-Chair,

1. I have the honor to speak on behalf of the Troika consisting of Bhutan, Thailand and Viet Nam. In doing so, we align ourselves with the statement delivered by Fiji on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.
2. To contribute to the discussions we would highlight the following from our own national and regional experiences:
 - a. *Sustained and inclusive economic growth should be an integral aspect of the SDGs*. Towards this end, we share the view that:
 - i. Green growth is one of the crucial means towards pursuing sustained economic development, addressing climate change and natural disasters. The post-2015 agenda and the SDGs should also include elements to encourage countries to pursue green and low-carbon growth through access to clean and green technologies, development of clean energy and production instead of exhaustive reliance on natural resources.
 - ii. The SDGs should advocate the core values of quality, inclusiveness, equality, efficiency in economic growth indicators.
3. *Industrialisation is key to bringing about structural change, job creation, poverty eradication and economic growth. Economic history has shown that no country has achieved development without having industrialised.* Industrialization continues to be the main driver of economic development, helping to lift millions of people out of unemployment and poverty, especially in developing, least developed and countries in transition. In this regard, Viet Nam supports UNIDO's promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrial development.

4. Infrastructure development including transportation and IT systems will complement the industrialization process and help narrow social disparities and create equal development conditions for all in the society.
5. ***Enhancing international coordination and partnership in macroeconomic policies is equally important.*** The role of national ownership in planning and implementing sustainable development strategies need to be highlighted. However, it is imperative to foster international linkage and coordination. In this regard, we would re-emphasize the following:
 - a. A genuine partnership and effective global compact between all stakeholders for sustainable development is vital to complement the efforts of national Governments. This requires a supportive, fair and enabling economic and financial architecture as well as a transparent and rules-based system of international trade that is pro-development and against protectionist trends.
 - b. It is necessary to increase the participation and role of developing countries in international financial and economic decision making and norm-setting. Global trade and investment rules should be designed and conducted in a manner that helps address specific constraints faced by developing countries, which require differential treatment.
 - c. In the face of recent decline in resources for development cooperation, there is an urgent need to enhance efficiency of international assistance as well as to uphold financial commitments by development partners and donors to sustain trade facilitation, debt relief, technical transfer, and infrastructure development.

Mr. Co-chair,

6. Bhutan, Thailand and Viet Nam have given top priority to inclusive and sustained economic growth, including developing green growth strategies.
7. In Viet Nam for instance, we are implementing a Green Growth Strategy as part of our overall national strategy for sustainable development, economic restructuring and transformation of economic growth model. We are focusing our efforts in three areas identified as major breakthroughs, namely infrastructure, human resource and institutional development.
8. Bhutan has just launched its 11th Five Year Development Plan for the next five years with the main priority areas of bringing about: a) inclusive social development; b) accelerated green economic development and c) development of strategic infrastructure.
9. Based on our national experiences and expectations and together with

Bhutan and Thailand, Viet Nam remains strongly committed to making positive and constructive contributions to the formulation of the SDGs.

Thank you, Mr. Co-Chair.