

Speech by Viet Nam's Head of Delegation at the 80th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

Agenda item 4: Review of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific

Agenda. Item 4 (g): Macroeconomic policy, poverty reduction and financing for development

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vietnam highly appreciates the commendable strides of the Asia and the Pacific region in implementing the 2030 Agenda and advancing Sustainable Development Goals. At the same time, Vietnam shares with assessments and concerns of the international and regional community about the impact of current global challenges including climate change, environmental degradation, epidemics, and conflicts. Reality shows that SDG implementation in the Asia-Pacific region is making relatively slow progress. Without determination and increased coordination of actions, it will be challenging for us to achieve SDGs by 2030.

Vietnam underlines our strong commitment to promoting the timely completion of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. In that effort, we have embraced and integrated the 2030 Agenda into our national development strategies. We have deployed a series of policies on education, social security, hunger and poverty reduction and achieved clear progress, especially in poverty eradication, ensuring clean water and sanitation, and access to quality education. We also attempted to ensure universal health coverage, strengthen social security coverage, promote innovation and infrastructure, build peace, justice and human rights and improve our institutional capacity.

Madam Chair, Distinguished delegates,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs continue to be the guideline for green and sustainable development and recovery in the coming time. To speed up the implementation of the SDGs, Vietnam would like to highlight the following points:

First, we need to continue to apply a people-centered approach, with the participation of all stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Second, we need to prioritize investment in human resources, science, technology, innovation and infrastructure as tools to implement the SDGs, including promoting the role of youth, especially through digital transformation, innovation and entrepreneurship.

Third, developed countries need to soon complete their financial commitments for development; restructuring the ODA structure towards increasing ODA for projects and programs to improve transport, information, and energy infrastructure in developing countries.

Last, we need to promote the monitoring of SDG progress, especially through the development and presentation of the Voluntary National Review of Progress in implementing the SDGs (VNR), to identify policy areas that need to be addressed.

Mr Chair, distinguished participants,

We believe the United Nations and UNESCAP can be the spearheads in strengthening partnerships and collaboration among countries, international organizations, and stakeholders in different aspects of sustainable development such as finance, technology transfer, international laws and regulations, regional mechanisms, knowledge, and practical experience sharing.

Viet Nam looks forward to continued invaluable support and cooperation from the international community, including UNESCAP, so that we can realize our aspiration for sustainable development. Viet Nam stands ready

to actively contribute to regional and global efforts towards SDG implementation.

Thank you, Madam Chair./.