

Speech by Viet Nam Delegation

(At the 80th session of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific/ Agenda item 2 Theme topic: "Leveraging digital innovation for sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific")

Madam Chair, distinguished delegates,

Digital transformation and the Fourth Industrial Revolution represent an inevitable, irreversible global trend and an objective requirement for the development of each country. Reality shows that the Asia-Pacific region is progressing slowly on implementing its Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, stronger efforts and new breakthroughs are required to be made by the international community to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Acknowledging the importance of digital innovation for sustainable development, Vietnam has been fiercely implementing many policies to take advantage of digital technology and innovation. We have soon issued the National Strategy on Digital Transformation, gradually perfecting the institutional and legal framework on digital transformation to promptly grasp the opportunities brought by digital innovation. At the same time, Vietnam has been investing heavily in developing information and communications technology infrastructure, supporting startups and digital innovation initiatives, improving skills and education in technology as well as enhancing cybersecurity and data protection. Through the above measures, Vietnam's national innovation system is increasingly improving and achieving many positive progresses, contributing to Vietnam's overall development.

With our experience in implementing digital innovation, we would like to highlight some lessons and propose priorities to further advance digital innovation in support of the SDG:

First, there needs to be a participation with high determination of the entire political system, in a synchronous and flexible management manner; a drastic implementation plan with clear identification of priorities and focuses. These policies are conducted continuously on the basis of mobilizing the active participation of the entire population.

Second, it is vital to build a legal framework for innovation and entrepreneurship, increase budget to strengthen youth and women-owned entrepreneurship and to support start-ups and innovation initiatives.

Third, we need to promote educational programs that focus on upgrading vital skills for future workforce, in particular digital upskilling.

Fourth is to strengthen international cooperation in various areas including technology transfer, international laws and regional mechanisms related to new technologies, knowledge and practical experience sharing.

Madam Chair, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I believe that the United Nations and UNESCAP in particular has a leading role to play in digital innovation efforts for sustainable development by coordinating international and regional actions to promote digital innovation, with the support of ESCAP's regional organizations.

Vietnam, on its part, is ready to contribute to the review and development of policies and strategies of the United Nations as well as the implementation of digital innovation. Vietnam looks forward to contributing to global efforts in handling challenges and implementing sustainable development goals.

Thank you, Madam Chair./.