STATEMENT
BY H.E. MR. HA KIM NGOC
DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM AT THE 74th UNESCAP SESSION
on “Multilateralism in Asia and the Pacific to promote inclusive economic and social development in the region and its contribution to global economic governance”
(Bangkok, 13th May 2018)

Mr. Chairman,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to join the previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for the 74th ESCAP Session. My delegation also takes good note of the topic today. As the regional and global landscapes are experiencing complex and fundamental challenges, our discussion on strengthening international cooperation and multilateralism will help countries to further promote inclusive economic and social development.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. My delegation shares the view that regional and global economic recovery is progressing, but medium and long-term risks remain. Security challenges, climate change and other global issues are increasingly posing profound impacts on development of different nations. Besides, disruptive technology advancements are transforming our societies. Maintaining sustainable and inclusive development in such a complex world is a big challenge in itself.

2. Viet Nam believes that the complexity of global challenges the international community facing required a comprehensive and multilateral approach. In a globalized world today, no countries can address global challenges alone. The Asia-Pacific members, therefore, must recommit themselves to upholding multilateralism. Multilateral institutions, particularly the United Nations, play a vital role in fostering global and regional partnership towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals. Vietnam calls upon all countries to do their part to support multilateral institutions, which are indispensable in our effort to address global challenges.

3. The dynamic development of the Asia Pacific region has been attached with peace, stability and inter-connection. Respect for and compliance with international law is crucial for the maintenance of sustainable peace globally and
regionally. The Asia Pacific region, therefore, must be a prime mover in strengthening the rule-based multilateralism.

It is equally important that a stable and predictable global economic environment is essential for sustainable development, particularly for developing countries. We support continued reform of multilateral institutions towards a more equal and balanced global economic governance that can respond better to development needs of developing countries.

Trade is a powerful engine for economic growth and job creation, particularly in developing countries. My country, Viet Nam, is an excellent case in point. We, therefore, call for strengthened and coordinated efforts at global, regional and national levels to boost global and regional trade, including better market access for developing countries. The conclusion of the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement (CPTPP), of which Viet Nam is a member, is a significant effort in advancing rule-based, free, open, fair, transparent and inclusive multilateral trade in the Asia Pacific region.

*Mr. Chairman,*

4. Last year in Viet Nam, APEC Leaders adopted practical action programs, including those on deepening regional economic integration, advancing economic, financial and social inclusion, developing human resources in the digital age, etc. We reaffirm our commitment to work closely with APEC members and regional countries to bring these action programs into life to promote innovative growth, inclusion and sustainable development in the Asia Pacific region.

5. In the Southeast Asian region, ASEAN is asserting its central role in building the regional security architecture. The ASEAN’s way of unity and consensus has proven to be an effective tool to deal with challenges to regional peace and stability as well as sustainable and inclusive development. Viet Nam has been rendering active and responsible contribution to realization of the vision of a rule-based, people-oriented and people-centered ASEAN Community with vibrant, sustainable and highly integrated economies.

6. Last but not least, multilateral cooperation is also being expanded to better manage the sustainable use of the resources of the Mekong River, which have the potential challenges to sustainable development of riparian countries. We are grateful and expect Asia Pacific countries, to continue their support and cooperation in the sustainable use of water resources, promotion of water security and response to climate change in the Mekong river basin.

7. Once again, Viet Nam reaffirms the commitment to supporting multilateralism in the Asia-Pacific region and the world to maintain sustainable peace and promote inclusive economic growth.

Thank you./.