

**Country Statement by H.E. Do Hung Viet, Deputy Foreign Minister of Viet Nam**  
**Agenda item 2 Theme topic: “Accelerating climate action in Asia and the Pacific**  
**for sustainable development”**  
*(Bangkok, 15th May 2023)*

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*Madam Chair,*

*Madam Executive Secretary,*

Our world today is full of paradoxes.

The drivers of global growth and prosperity are also the source of the challenge of our time.

Developing countries, small island developing states are bearing the brunt of climate change, yet those who contributed the most to climate change are nowhere near meeting their commitments.

At a time when international cooperation is needed the most, the world is becoming increasingly divisive, driven by major power rivalries.

And at a time when resources for SDG implementation are dwindling, global military spending increased for the 8th consecutive year, reaching a record high of over 2.4 trillion USD.

Our world today is also faced with a barrage of challenges. Diseases, instability, conflicts, food and water insecurity, natural disaster, biodiversity loss and pollution, to name a few.

Climate change, extreme weather events and sea-level rise are threatening the sustainable development, and even the survival of many Asia - Pacific countries.

According to a World Bank report released last year, without proper adaptation and mitigation measures, my country Viet Nam will lose between 12 to 14.5 percent of GDP a year by 2050 to climate change, plunging one million people into extreme poverty by 2030.

It is therefore my belief that we must redouble our commitment and our actions to build a better future.

As the most dynamic region and driver of global growth, the Asia-Pacific region should expand cooperation in trade and investment, especially climate-smart trade and

investment, tourism, connectivity, green transportation, energy transition, digital transformation, and sustainable urban development.

We must also strengthen international cooperation at all levels, in terms of finance, technology transfer, knowledge and practical experience sharing.

Bold commitments must be made at the upcoming SDG Summit in September this year and at COP28, especially commitments from developed countries to mobilize much more resources for sustainable development and realize their financial obligations under the Paris Agreement, provide financial contribution to the Loss and Damage Fund, and double climate adaptation finance.

I believe the United Nations, and in particular the UNESCAP, has a special role to play in advancing these commitments and coordinating regional and international actions. The UNESCAP's work in SDG monitoring and statistical capacity improvement, amongst others, are of particular significance.

*Madam Chair,*

Viet Nam is committed to a net zero emission target by 2050. But we cannot do it alone. Accordingly, last December, Viet Nam and international partners established the Just Energy Transition Partnership to support Viet Nam in realizing its net zero ambition. Much remains to be done, but we are moving in the right direction.

Viet Nam has made significant yet uneven progress in SDG implementation. Without greater efforts and further international assistance, many SDGs will not be achieved by 2030.

In this connection, we look forward to continued invaluable support and cooperation from the international community, including UNESCAP, so that we can realize our aspiration for sustainable development and our commitments at COP26.

Viet Nam will spare no effort in contributing to peace, stability, and prosperity for the region and the world, while leaving no one behind.

I thank you Madam Chair./.