Speech by Viet Nam’s Delegation

(At the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024/Agenda Item 3-
Accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
through voluntary national reviews)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

The Voluntary National Reviews play a vital role in the monitoring and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. It also facilitates the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned with the international community.

Understanding this importance, Viet Nam has twice presented the VNRs in 2018 and 2023. We have developed our VNR through a combination of different scientific methods, as well as by engaging the entire political system, NGOs, development partners, the United Nations, the business community, research institutes and scientists. Throughout 10 steps of building the VNR 2023, we have consulted with all relevant stakeholders to ensure that all voices are heard and nobody gets left behind. We also received extensive support from ESCAP in tracking SDG progress presented in the VNR.

The VNR has helped Viet Nam in analyzing the SDG progress as well as difficulties and challenges in the SDG implementation. From these breakdowns, the VNR has proposed steps to accelerate SDG implementation, notably through increasing policy coherence for sustainable development at both national and subnational levels, ensuring that all levels of government are aligned in their efforts to achieve the SDG.

Since VNR is an important tool for accelerating SDG implementation, we would like to recommend that ESCAP should further promote activities in supporting member states to develop and present their VNRs at the annual High Level Political Forum for Sustainable Development, especially in data gathering and statistical analysis.

I thank you for your kind attention./
Speech by the Delegation of Viet Nam

(At the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2024
Agenda Item 4- Review of regional progress in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and opportunities for achieving the SDGs)

Mr. Chairman, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen,

Climate change, extreme weather events and sea-level rise are threatening the sustainable development, and even the survival of many Asia-Pacific countries. Yet our region produces about half of the world’s carbon dioxide due to overreliance on fossil fuel. Meanwhile, water resources are increasingly under threat owing to overuse, pollution, overpopulation, climate change, inadequate sanitation and a lack of transboundary water cooperation. The SDG6 of Clean water and Sanitation are among the goals that make the least progress in the region. Thereore, we must increase commitment in sustainable energy transition and sustainable water resource management to protect our region from these risks.

To that end, Viet Nam is an active member of many different water resource management mechanisms such as the Mekong River Commission, the Mekong – Lancang Cooperation, the Greater Mekong Subregion, among others, to increase transboundary water cooperation. Viet Nam is also committed to a net zero emission target by 2050. Accordingly, last December at the COP28, Viet Nam and international partners group (IPG) launched the Just Energy Transition Partnership Resource Mobilization Plan to support Viet Nam in realizing its net zero ambition.

To further advance energy transition and water resource management in support of the SDG, we would like to highlight the followings:

1. Improve international cooperation in different aspects such as finance, technology transfer, international laws and regulations, regional mechanisms, knowledge and practical experience sharing.

2. Developed countries must meet their commitments to mobilize climate finance and realize their financial obligations under the Paris Agreement, providing financial contribution to the Loss and Damage Fund, and doubling climate adaptation finance.

3. Establish a global legal framework on the basis of science to guide and coordinate the sustainable exploitation, use, and restoration of water resources; in addition, create a financial fund for transboundary river basins.

4. The United Nations and ESCAP can be at the forefront of this effort by providing expertise in monitoring relevant data and statistical capacity
improvement, as well as coordinating international and regional actions. The United Nations can also establish organizations and agencies such as a scientific committee on transboundary water or an international river council.

I thank you for your kind attention.