Statement by Delegation of the S.R. of Viet Nam

Agenda item 5(d) Disaster risk reduction

Madam/Mr. Chairman,

1. In recent years, extreme weather events and natural disasters have occurred with increasing frequency and intensity in Asia and the Pacific. Superstorm Yagi last year, along with the recent earthquake in Myanmar, Thailand and some other countries that claimed thousands of lives and caused devastating losses, highlight the urgent need for strong and immediate action on disaster risk reduction.

2. Viet Nam is among the countries most affected by climate change and natural disasters. We face every year a wide range of natural disasters, which are becoming more severe and increasingly unpreditable. Last year, typhoon Yagi alone claimed 300 lives and caused economic losses amounting to $2 billion, which is nearly 0.5% of our GDP. The pain and loss from such events are unbearable.

3. Strengthening the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk is no longer optional, it is an urgent necessity. Now more than ever, the Framework's priorities for actions should be further integrated into our regional coordination plan. These include understanding disaster risk, strengthening disaster risk governance, investing for resilience and enhancing preparedness for effective response and recovery.

4. In this connection, I would like to propose priotizing the following areas:

First, it is essential for our region to mobilize greater financial resources for disaster risk reduction. We encourage the adoption of innovative and diversified financing mechanisms that support climate change adaptation, enhance resilience to extreme weather events, and strengthen the capacity of both populations and countries to withstand disasters.

Second, techonology and innovation should be better leveraged to improve risk forecasting and disaster management capabilities. Strengthening national multi-hazard monitoring systems and fostering regional cooperation on early warning systems are critical steps in this direction.

Third, building resilience is also about raising awareness, enhancing the capacity and preparedness of local communities. This entails investing in nature-based solutions, such as restoring mangroves, wetlands, promoting sustainable aquaculture and urban development.

We firmly believe that ESCAP can play a leading role in advancing regional cooperation in these key areas.

I thank you!