NATIONAL STATEMENT DELIVERED BY THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION
APPC6 26-28 November 2018  (draft)

Honorable chair,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to ESCAP and UNFPA for the quality report that outlines the regional progress on the implementation of Asia Pacific Ministerial Declaration on Population and Development, ICPD Programme of Action as well as priorities of the related 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and provides strategic recommendations for the coming years.

In the past 5 years, Vietnam has made considerable progress in implementing 11 priority actions outlined in the APMD including Poverty Eradication and Employment, Health, Sexual and Reproductive Health, Services and Rights, Adolescents and Young People, and Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment. Particularly, in the areas of Health, and Sexual and Reproductive Health, Services and Rights. We have effectively responded to ongoing and emerging demands such as implementing appropriate evidence- and rights-based policies and programmes to improve SRH status of the people including safe motherhoods, cervical cancer prevention and control, reducing unmet need of modern contraceptives for unmarried young people, improving access to SRH information and services for adolescents, and addressing the need for prevention and treatment of harmful practices such as gender based violence, imbalanced sex ratio at birth and child marriage.

Our country’s experience, as expressed in the findings and recommendations of the regional report, as well as the continuous commitment from relevant ministries and policy makers, clearly demonstrate an effective linkage between human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights and the achievement of the SDGs and the vision of sustainable development agenda 2030 for Asia-Pacific as a whole. In addition, Viet Nam, within its possibilities, facilitates adequate financial and human resource
investments and promotes the participation of vulnerable and marginalized population groups, including vulnerable women, youth and adolescents, migrants, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, people who live with HIV and sexual minorities. There is a strong need, however, to continue to invest and build capacity of national and sub-national authorities for better integrating population dynamics into the national socio-economic planning framework, improve comprehensive sexuality education especially life skills for unmarried people, and scale up the national response to the growing social and health needs of the growing ageing population. It is also crucial to invest in quality disaggregated data that will be used by government policy and law makers, development partners, private sectors and communities to inform the policy development process as well as monitoring and evaluation of policy implementation.

Ladies and gentlemen,
From our experience in Viet Nam, we wish to call for effective and affirmative responses to emerging issues and gaps in the implementation of the ICPD PoA and APMD. Our Asia Pacific region needs a common monitoring and evaluation framework to assess both achievements and obstacles and to provide evidence and inputs to inform ICPD+25-related processes in 2019. In our vision, SDG goals and targets will not be fully achieved without holistic and comprehensive responses of Member States to universal human rights and equality, sexual and reproductive health and rights, comprehensive youth development, gender equality, empowerment of women, education, employment opportunities, equitable and sustainable economic growth and of course, dignity of all people. Finally, we would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere thanks to ESCAP, UNFPA and all other international organizations and governments who have been supporting Viet Nam in the area of Population and Development. Thank you for your attention!