STATEMENT BY H.E. Mr. NGUYEN HAI BANG,
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THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM TO THAILAND
AT THE 75TH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC:
HIGH-LEVEL MINISTERIAL SEGMENT
ON “EMPOWERING PEOPLE AND ENSURING INCLUSIVENESS AND EQUALITY”

Madam Chairperson/Mr. Chair,

Madam Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Secretary of
UNESCAP,

Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I would like to express our gratitude to
UNESCAP and the Government and People of Thailand for their hospitality and
excellent arrangement for the 75th Session of UNESCAP. I also like to reaffirm our high
appreciation for the role of UNESCAP in promoting socio-economic development
cooperation on the regional level and within each member state, and in reinvigorating
operational activities of UNESCAP.

Madam Chairperson/ Mr. Chair,

In recent decades, development in Asia and the Pacific often demonstrates a
success story of inclusive development. More than 80% of the region’s extreme poor
have been lifted out of poverty, resulting in improved living standards for most people.
There are also improvements in income and in access to healthcare, education and other
key services. However, the region’s income inequality has increased; advantaged group
have gained access to opportunities at higher rate than disadvantaged ones, leading to an
increase in gaps. These continue to be obstacles from achieving the common goal to
“leave no one behind.” In that context, we believe that with the theme “Empowering
people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality,” the 75th session is heading towards the
right direction in addressing this pressing issue.

Madam Chairperson/ Mr. Chair,

It is our view that in order to achieve equality, we need to ensure inclusion, in
which services and opportunities are provided to all members of society, regardless of
their age, gender, race, religion, ethnicity, location, and class to fully realize their
potentials. Empowerment is the tool that for individuals to do so. Thus, it is imperative
to: (i) make institutional improvement and reform policy and services; (ii) encourage all
groups to participate in the decision-making process; (iii) enhance the quality and availability of education, trainings, and employment opportunities; (iv) secure equitable allocations and affordable access to education; (v) enhance social security and protection, and health care; (vi) enhance gender-mainstreaming to ensure gender-inclusive policymaking; to name a few.

Madam Chairperson/ Mr. Chair,

Viet Nam firmly believes in the importance of the 2030 Agenda as well as the Millennium Development Goals. Thus, in order to make sure that “no one got left behind,” Viet Nam has actively participated in the global implementation of the 2030 Agenda. One prime example is our integration of the SDGs in our National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda, reflecting 150 out of 160 specific targets in the Agenda that are relevant to Viet Nam’s development priorities and directions. So far, Viet Nam has achieved a number of SDG-related results, such as: (i) a reduction in the national multi-dimensional poverty rate from 9.9% in 2015 to less than 7% in 2017; (ii) health insurance coverage reaching 86.4% in 2017; (iii) access to electricity by more than 99% of Vietnamese households in 2016; (iv) a reduction in inequality and an improvement in the promotion of access to justice and information; and (v) the promotion of youth as key partners in achieving the SDGs.

The foundation of these achievements is people-centered, with a focus on accelerating economic restructuring, guaranteeing social equality especially for disadvantaged ones, transforming growth model to improve economic quality and efficiency; ensuring responsive and inclusive decision-making at all levels; and increasing gender-mainstreaming. Yet, the Government of Viet Nam also recognizes that there are much still needed to be done. In addition, we believe that to successfully empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality, the global partnership for sustainable development should be strengthened. Developed countries should support developing world to implement the SDGs, particularly through capacity building, technology transfer, trade facilitation and access to financial resources.

Madam Chairperson/ Mr. Chair,

As a responsible and active member of the United Nations, we aim to further contribute to the sustainable growth of the world in general, and of the Asia-Pacific region in particular to ensure each individual will benefit from the progress towards the SDGs in an inclusive and equal manner.

Finally, I wish the Session great success and wish everyone good health.

Thank you for your attention./.