

SPEECH BY DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER H.E. VU DUC DAM

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Mr. President,

On behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, it is my honor and pleasure to attend this very meaningful session of the Commission, which marks the 75th anniversary of ESCAP.

Seventy-five years is a long journey. Throughout this journey, we are happy with all tremendous achievements that we have made together. Rising from the ashes of war and prolonged backwardness, after 75 years, our region has lifted hundreds of millions out of poverty and seen the development of some of the world's large and most dynamic economies.

Reviewing the past with care is how we can move toward a better future. The current context and numerous forecasts provide us with a picture of the future ahead, with bright and bleak prospects. This gives us both joy and concerns, for while opportunities are plenty, the challenges are also enormous.

The world and our region have become more prosperous now than in previous decades. However, peace and stability, the premises of development, are still facing numerous risks. We are standing before major opportunities presented by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. However, countries, particularly developing ones, are struggling with the huge multi-faceted impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and climate change. They are also met with many difficulties in accessing resources for recovery, green growth, and sustainable development.

Against this backdrop, a common agenda for countries to promote sustainable development in the region is prudent and necessary. This agenda needs to demonstrate our collective political resolve, consensus and joint effort. To this end, I believe that we should focus and give priority to the followings:

Firstly, it is essential to place humans at the center of all activities, assist countries in building a social welfare system to ensure that people have full access to basic services and employment, build capacity in healthcare preparedness and resilience, and promote gender equality.

Secondly, we need to strengthen regional connectivity, particularly in transport, energy, IT and communications, ensure supply chain resilience, promote digital economy, and narrow the digital gap.

Thirdly, it is crucial to promote innovation and mobilize resources to realize initiatives, transition to a low-carbon growth model, develop green and circular economy, and respond to climate change, through promoting partnerships, advancing multilateral initiatives and close cooperation with international and regional organizations, including ASEAN.

ESCAP needs to further promote its role in building and implementing agreements and regional cooperation frameworks, and create an environment conducive to exchanges of knowledge, ideas, and cooperation projects. Such efforts will better assist member countries in recovery and socio-economic recovery.

Mr. President,

As a result of Doi Moi (reform) in the past decades, Viet Nam has risen to become a low-middle income country. Our economy has grown rapidly in scale, our investment climate continuously improved, and our economic growth is harmoniously linked to cultural and social development. Social progress and fairness are promoted, and priority is given to protection of natural resources and the environment.

Viet Nam's efforts to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals have also yielded positive outcomes. According to the 2021 Sustainable Development Report, Viet Nam is ranked 51st out of 165 countries, compared to our rank of 88th out of 149 countries only 5 years ago. Multi dimensional poverty has been greatly reduced, coverage of education and essential healthcare services is higher than many countries at the same income level, the percentage of renewable energy is rising rapidly, and IT infrastructure has been significantly improved.

Like many countries, Viet Nam has managed to contain the COVID-19 pandemic, and transitioned to safe and flexible adaptation. Socio-economic recovery has been recorded in most areas, at a rate close to the pre-pandemic growth level.

Along the way, we have received invaluable support from the international community, including the United Nations, and ESCAP in particular.

We hope to continue receiving this cooperation and assistance for socio-economic recovery to realize our aspiration for national development, meet the SDGs and Viet Nam's commitments at the COP26, including the target of net zero emissions by 2050.

Viet Nam will continue to actively, responsibly and effectively contribute to ESCAP's efforts and the United Nations as a whole, for peace, stability, sustainable and inclusive development, in order to leave no one behind across the Asia-Pacific and the world.

Thank you very much for your attention./.