

Speech by Mr. Nguyen Tuan Anh – Head of Vietnamese Delegate

(At the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development 2023/Agenda Item 2-Accelerating the recovery from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific/Delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals through the energy, food and finance nexus)

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,

In 2022, the world economy had to face great challenges and rapid, unpredictable fluctuations; inflation rose to its highest level in decades forcing countries to tighten monetary policy. Conflict; natural disasters; epidemics; climate change;... have increased risks to financial and monetary markets; global energy and food security. According to the United Nations, 94 countries with 1.6 billion people are *facing high food and energy prices and lack of financial resources*.

In Viet Nam, the available data for 2020-2021 shows that the COVID-19 Pandemic has been imposing significant negative impacts on the implementation of the SDGs, especially Goal 2, Goal 3, Goal 4, Goal 8, and Goal 10. However, with high determination, Viet Nam has made strong recovery in 2022. The multidimensional poverty reduction rate decreased by 1% compared with 2021. The average consumer price index (CPI) in 2022 was estimated to increase by 3.15%, lower than the target set by the National Assembly (about 4%) and by international organization's forecast. 99.65% of Vietnamese households accessed to the national grid with more popular in using the renewable energy from households. GDP growth in 2022 was 8.02% - the highest result in the period 2011-2022.

Regarding the energy, food and finance nexus, Viet Nam highly appreciates ESCAP's analysis in the context of our region. Many actions in these areas are already under way, but they are not progressing quickly enough to meet the Goals by 2030. Thus, we need:

(a) To accelerate existing efforts to implement technical solutions, supported by funding, necessary policy and regulatory frameworks, and behavioural interventions;

(b) To place a stronger emphasis on ensuring the more equitable distribution of energy and food so that all people in the region, including the most vulnerable, can meet their needs;

(c) To address a significant gap in efforts to date-that is, the lack of attention paid to the strong interlinkages between the energy, food and finance systems, and the potential conflicts and synergies across the energy, food and finance nexus.

Thank you for your kind attention./.