

**STATEMENT BY H.E MR. NGO DUC THANG,
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PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO ESCAP, HEAD OF THE
VIETNAMESE DELEGATION AT THE 69TH ESCAP SESSION**

(Bangkok, 30th April 2013)

*Mr. Chairman,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and gentlemen,*

On behalf of the Vietnamese delegation, I wish to extend our appreciation to the Government and people of Thailand and the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for this Session. I would like to join other delegates in congratulating you on your election as the Chair of the 69th ESCAP Session.

Mr. Chairman,

Over the past two days, our discussion has echoed the common concerns over the increasing challenges of multiple shocks, particularly economic crises and natural disasters, to the Asia-Pacific and the world at large. In that context, we are so encouraged by the outstanding efforts made by regional countries to address their own difficulties and enhance cooperation towards economic recovery and sustainable growth. We are convinced that this Session offers a great chance for us to share our experiences and lessons in “*Building resilience to natural disasters and major economic crises*” as well as to present the inputs of the Asia-Pacific community to the ongoing global discussion over the path ahead, especially the Post-2015 Development Agenda. From that viewpoint, we would like to focus on the following points to further energize our discussion:

First, to make a strong community capable of overcoming multiple challenges, each country should exercise more efforts to promote sustainable development and make national economic-social infrastructures and local communities more resilient. It is important to take into account social inclusiveness, environmental sustainability and a greener pattern of economic development in planning national strategies. Preventive measures should be taken to cope with shocks and mitigate

the impacts of natural disasters and climate change.

Second, since vulnerable groups such as the poor, women and children are usually the last to benefit from the fruits of growth, but the first to suffer the consequences of economic difficulties and natural disasters, more resources and attention should be given to help improve their living conditions and resilience to possible crises. To a broader extent, as highlighted in the Istanbul and Almaty Programs of Action, the world's most vulnerable groups of countries, particularly the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) must be given a special priority as their constraints are more challenging and would hardly be overcome without increased international support and cooperation; and

Third, given the trans-boundary nature and impacts of global issues, it is imperative to foster regional linkage and cooperation. ESCAP should make full use of its large membership, cooperation mechanisms and global partnerships to help its members, particularly developing and least developed countries achieve sustainable growth, and to bring regional perspectives into the global review and formulation of joint action plans. ESCAP itself needs to be revitalized to meet increasing demands of its members and partners. In this line, we commend the efforts of the ESCAP Secretariat in implementing Resolutions 64/1 and 67/15 to improve the Commission's effectiveness and flexibility.

Mr. Chairman,

Like other members, in its national development and international integration process, Viet Nam has faced borderless challenges relating to economic slowdown, natural disasters, water security etc. Accordingly, the Government of Viet Nam has implemented strong and effective measures to restructure the economy, improve growth quality and mitigate impacts of natural disasters. Last year, the *National Green Growth Strategy for the period 2011-2020 with a vision to 2050* was adopted and identified as a direction to achieve sustainable and green economic development.

In the framework of the all-inclusive National Target Programme for Poverty Reduction, we have conducted a wide range of social protection and preferential credit projects to assist poor households and ethnic minority communities in their own production, vocational

training, education, healthcare and recovery from natural disasters. Despite recent economic constraints, funding for social protection continues to increase. Thanks to such great efforts, important results have been recorded and encouragingly, Viet Nam has achieved many MDGs indicators ahead of the 2015 deadline.

As an active and responsible member of the international community, Viet Nam is working with other countries and partners, particularly those in the Asia-Pacific, to build up strong and capable communities. We are making efforts to promote ASEAN connectivity towards the establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community by the end of 2015 and to outline a post-2015 vision for ASEAN. As stated at the Rio+20 Conference, we are ready to cooperate with ASEAN countries and regional partners including ESCAP to set up an ASEAN Regional Center for Green Economy in Viet Nam.

We also support regional cooperation in the management of trans-boundary resources such as energy and water, trade and migrant labours. Last month, Viet Nam hosted the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) workshop on *Water and river basin management – A green growth approach*, with participation of around 150 delegates from ASEM member nations and relevant organizations, who also joined a ceremony to mark the 2013 World Water Day themed “Water Cooperation”.

Mr. Chairman,

With the efforts of each country and enhanced regional cooperation, we have ground to believe that the Asia-Pacific region will overcome challenges to sustain its economic growth and continue to be the dynamic engine for global economic development. In this process, ESCAP has an important role to play as an inclusive intergovernmental forum for development. Viet Nam is strongly committed to working with all countries and partners, including ESCAP, to achieve these goals.

Thank you for your kind attention./.