

**STATEMENT BY H.E. VU QUANG MINH  
ASSISTANT MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS,  
HEAD OF THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION**

**AT THE 71ST ESCAP SESSION**

*(28 May 2015, Bangkok, Thailand)*

Mr. Chair,

Madame Executive Secretary,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First, I would like to join the previous speakers in expressing our appreciation to Madame Executive Secretary and the ESCAP Secretariat for the excellent arrangements for the 71<sup>st</sup> ESCAP Session. As the member economies in Asia and the Pacific are working hard to address the challenges to sustainable development in our region, Viet Nam welcomes the theme of this year's session.

Despite significant progress achieved in the past years, Viet Nam is faced with increasing inequality and chronic poverty among the most vulnerable groups, the gaps between urban and rural areas, the lack of quality health services, limited resources for environmental conservation, lasting impacts of climate change, and persistent trade barriers.

As for the Asia-Pacific region, numerous development challenges remain unresolved, notably structural weaknesses, slow economic recovery, gender inequality and uneven development between different geographies and sections of society. The disturbances in the world market, especially the sharp decline in oil prices also have varying impacts on the region's development. While we have made substantial progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), much more needs to be done to ensure the sustainability of results. Asian-Pacific countries should commit to achieve the unfinished MDGs, reflecting on successful experiences and good practices for the development of the new post-2015 goals.

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In an integrated and globalised world, our regional economic and social issues can only be well addressed in a multidimensional order. To ensure a more inclusive and robust Asia-Pacific, our development strategies must be in line with the Post-

2015 Development Agenda and the three pillars of sustainable development. It is also depended upon high political will and commitment at all levels, and good governance. Wider sub-regional cooperation and stronger collaboration among neighbouring countries are also important.

We all agree that peace and security are prerequisite conditions for development. More than ever, our region needs to focus our limited resources to achieve the ambitious sustainable development goals. We therefore need to uphold the spirit of cooperation, constructiveness and exercise restraint to ensure that all differences and disputes are resolved by peaceful means and in accordance with international law.

Mr. Chair,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam values the proposals by the ESCAP Secretariat to address developmental challenges through knowledge sharing based on sub-regional distinctive characteristics. We emphasise the role of ESCAP in supporting members by providing a regional platform for policy discussion, conducting thematic studies and social trends, strengthening regional accountability, monitor systems and capacity building. In this regard, I would like to highlight the importance of the UN reforms, in particular efforts to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the UN agencies. We welcome the recent visit last week to Viet Nam by Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and the inauguration of the Green One UN House in Hanoi on this occasion.

With a wish to further contribute to the work of ESCAP and the UN system, the Government of Viet Nam has decided to seek membership to the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for the term 2016-2018. We would very much appreciate ESCAP member states' support to Viet Nam's candidacy.

Thank you for your attention.