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STATEMENT OF VIET NAM DELEGATION

By H.E. Mr. Cao chinh Thien, Ambassador and Permanent Representative to FAO

Excellency Mr. Chairperson,

Excellency Mr. Jose Graziano da Silva Director General of FAO

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen:

First of all, on behalf of the Vietnamese Delegation, I would like to warmly welcome the distinguished Ministers, the Delegates to the 40th FAO

Conference

Ladies and gentlemen,

Natural disasters and extreme climatic events are increasing in almost every part of the world and become a global concern in the 21st century. According to statistics from 1970 up to now, in the Asia-Pacific region, where Viet Nam is situated, over 5,000 disasters have occurred, causing more than 2 million deaths and affecting about 6 million people. The high economic growth rate in the area is also seriously affected by disasters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Viet Nam is a country that is annually affected by a wide variety of natural disasters which increase in both intensity and frequency because of climate change. Over the past 10 years, on average, disasters have killed and loosed over 300 people every year, with economic losses ranging from 1 to 1.5 percent of the GDP. Every year an average of 6 to 8 typhoons and

tropical depressions directly affect Viet Nam. More and more intense storms occur recently. The landing area of tropical cyclones tends to shift south and the storm season ends later. Many storms have complicated, abnormal paths. Droughts tend to increase with the level of unevenness among climatic zones. Hot weather and drought has increased remarkably in many parts of the country, especially in the Centre and the South.

In 2016, extreme weather conditions caused by El Niño, including severe cold in the North, prolonged droughts in the South-Central Coast and Central Highlands, salt intrusion in the Mekong Delta were the most serious in many years. This has caused thousands of hectares of rice, fruit and other crops to die or without yield. As a result, thousands of people lost their livelihood, more than 1 million tons of rice has been lost, 2 million people were lacking clean water and economic losses amount to \$ 1.7 billion.

The Government of Viet Nam has taken all measures to reduce the consequences of the disaster and to restore the livelihood to our people. And to this success, I would like to take this opportunity to express our great appreciation and thanks to FAO, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other distinguished partners for their great supports to us to solve the consequences of the last year disasters.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Despite scarce and limited resources for development, Viet Nam has been actively implementing the National Strategy on Climate Change and the Green Growth strategy, disaster preparedness and mitigation strategies. Viet Nam is also strongly committed to work together with the international community, including with FAO and UN Agencies to respond effectively to climate change.

Viet Nam committed to implement our National Determined Contribution to combat global warming that was clearly identified at Paris Agreement. Accordingly, Viet Nam targets 2030 to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 8 percent compared to conventional development scenarios by domestic resources and could increase it to 25 percent with international support.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Over the years, with the valuable support from the international community, the Government and people of Viet Nam have made continuous efforts to reduce the risk of natural disasters. To respond to the challenges of climate change, more than ever, we are facing the urgent need for capacity building, building resilience for the most vulnerable people and on the other hand, to actively contribute to reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission by its co-benefits in Agriculture Sector, we need more advanced technologies to apply in large scale of CSA's Models towards achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).

Finally we do wish a successful 40th Session of the FAO Conference!

Thank you very much.