

**STATEMENT BY H.E LE QUOC DOANH, VICE MINISTER
at the 35thFAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific (APRC)
(Hanoi, Viet Nam, 3-4/9/2020)**

Item 11 - Prioritization of Country and Regional Needs

Your Excellency Mr. Chairperson,

Excellency Mr. Jong Jin Kim, Assistant Director General and Regional Representative of FAO,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the host country, the Kingdom of Bhutan as well as the FAO Secretariat for excellent arrangements of virtual Session of the 35th FAO Regional Conference for the Asia and the Pacific.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2020, our Government is preparing a 5-year social economic development plan of the country for a period 2021-2025 and towards 2030. The development plan for agriculture and rural development aims to develop a smart agriculture, international integration, adaptation to climate change and pandemic diseases including Covid-19.

On behalf of Viet Nam Delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to propose 4 priorities for FAO to consider in its agenda to support Viet Nam and member countries in coming years as follows:

Firstly, FAO to continue supporting countries to implement the Country Programme Framework. Focus should be on innovative ways to improve engagement and benefits of smallholder farmers in agricultural value chains, improve food safety and nutrition. Equally important is strategic policy support to develop scenarios of future food and agriculture transformation.

Secondly, FAO as a partner to assist member countries to mobilize and access financial resources for ending hunger and poverty and tackling the global pandemic and climate challenges.

Thirdly, we would like to add our voice in recognizing the importance of addressing pandemic, disaster and climate risks to achieve zero hunger, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture transformation. Let me highlight a message from the FAO Regional Conference in Ha Noi - 2018 that the agriculture sector is in the unique position to demonstrate coherent implementation of global frameworks, addressing common drivers of vulnerabilities to global pandemic, climate change, disasters and poverty.

Last but not least, FAO as a partner to assist member countries to promote sustainable food system, one health approach, climate smart agriculture or landscape approach and strengthen the South-South cooperation issues, such as water resource management, transboundary diseases and emerging issues...

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates,

We believe that FAO, more than ever, needs to continue its efforts in reforming and renovating to further improve the effectiveness of the whole organization – from FAO Country, Regional Office and Headquarter.

In this regards, Viet Nam made an official request that FAO nominates a new FAO Representative (FAOR) to Viet Nam as soon as possible. We are willing to closely work with FAO Rome in the selection process of FAOR. In addition, we propose that FAO should create a system to assess performance of its staff so that the Government can participate in this process.

Thank you very much for your kind attention./.