

**Statement delivered by
Her Excellency Nguyen Thi Bich Hue
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to FAO
on the occasion of the
41st Session of the FAO Conference, Rome, Italy (22-29 June 2019)
24 June 2019**

Thank you Mr Chariman.

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

First of all, allow me, on behalf of the Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to congratulate, His Excellency Dr José Graziano da Silva, for your excellent leadership and achievements that FAO has contributed to its members during your term.

The Vietnamese delegation would also like to congratulate Dr Qu Dongyu who was elected as new FAO Director-General. I strongly believe that under your leadership, FAO will be more proactive to tackle global issues on food and agriculture in the context of climate change, continue efforts in reforming FAO systems and enhancing the South-South cooperation.

The Viet Nam delegation also welcomes the FAO Rapport on Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development and we look forward to further preparations on this matter.

Excellencies, Distinguished delegates, agricultural development and ensuring food and nutrition security provides the vital basis for sustainable social and economic development in every country. In this connection, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) for 2030 have been identified as key priorities of our new sustainable development agenda.

At present, agriculture in Viet Nam is facing many challenges such as small holder scale and its low competitiveness because of its low productivity, post-harvest loss and food waste, insufficient investment and severe impact caused by extreme weather events that intensified by climate change.

In June 2013, the Government of Viet Nam launched the Restructuring Programme on Agriculture Sector for the period 2011-2020, aiming toward more added values, sustainable development and green growth. Jointly, with the FAO country office in Viet Nam, we developed the Country Programming Framework (CPF) for the period 2017-2021 with focus on four priority areas:

- Increased food security and nutrition to tackle hunger, malnutrition and food safety concerns;
- Sustainable development of the agriculture sectors contributing to the national Green Growth and other strategies on improved natural resources management and environment protection;
- New Rural Development and Sustainable Poverty Reduction; and
- Enhancing resilience of communities to disasters and threats.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, it is obvious that in the changing climate and urbanization context, poverty cannot be eradicated without strengthening the resilience of agriculture dependent livelihoods, especially of smallholder farmers, fisher folk, pastoralists and community foresters. Thus, we need to continue strengthening the resilience of our food systems and to adapt to the so call “new normal” for extreme weather. Helping farmers, especially poor small holders, adjust their production systems and practices to meet the new challenging conditions, requires much better access to appropriate technologies, knowledge, markets, information and investments.

In this regard, I would like to take this opportunity to propose four priorities for FAO to consider in its agenda to support member countries in coming years as follows:

- Firstly, continue supporting countries to implement CPF, focusing on improving engagement and benefits of smallholding farmers into agricultural value chains, improving food safety and nutrition for the poor and rural community development; developing scenarios for future food

and agriculture transformation and policy recommendations to ensure the future food security and nutrition.

- Accelerate support and to bring the best global practices for institutional and capacity building for relevant stakeholders in risk-based food control system and the food safety standards, while helping to promote market access and agricultural trade.
- As a partner, FAO should assist member countries to mobilize and access financial resources such as Climate facilities, GEF and other sources.
- Last but not least, given the importance of addressing disaster and climate change risks to agriculture to achieve zero hunger, poverty reduction and sustainable agriculture transformation. FAO has a significant role for effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda including the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Sustainable Development Goals. Let me reiterate a message from the Hanoi Conference in March 2018, that the agriculture sector is in the unique position to move forward the implementation of these global frameworks, providing the foundation for zero hunger and sustainable development.

Distinguished delegates, despite the budget constraints while dealing with global challenges, like disease outbreaks, natural disasters, we believe that FAO, needs to accelerate its efforts in reforming and renovating for better effectiveness of its network among FAO country representations, FAORAP and FAO Headquarters, meeting the needs of all members and the international community. It is also necessary to avoid overlaps with other reform processes in other UN agencies while making full use of the FAO's comparative advantages.

With its proactive role and well-known expertise, we strongly believe that FAO will be steady on its road to reform, further strengthen and enhance its position as leading technical role in worldwide food and agricultural activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the Vietnamese Government, to thank the FAO, especially His Excellency José Graziano da Silva, FAO Director-General, FAO staff and experts for their invaluable technical supports through TCP and global programmes to our country over the past years. Our sincere thanks also go to other international organizations and the donor community who have supported and extended precious assistance to Vietnam's agriculture and rural development.

Thank you very much for your attention.