

**Statement delivered by**  
**His Excellency Duong Hai Hung**  
**Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Viet Nam**  
**on the occasion of the 43rd Session of the FAO Conference (1-7 July 2023)**  
**5 July 2023**

Mr Chairman,

Distinguished Delegates,

Access to food increasingly became a challenge, especially for millions of people in low- and middle-income countries, where the most vulnerable populations of the world live. Overall, more than a quarter of a billion people went hungry in 2022.

According to FAO, the Asia-Pacific region is anticipated to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2065 – a delay of 35 years.

This downward trend originates mainly from impacts of climate change, Covid-19 pandemic, conflicts and crises on food, feed, fuels, fertilizers and finance. Such impacts are threatening to wipe out the developments achieved with great efforts of nations for years and they are also big challenges for food and nutrition security for 8 billion people of the world.

Distinguished Delegates,

Sustainable agriculture and food security are among the pillars of Viet Nam's Socio-economic Development Strategy from 2021 to 2030, in which we prioritize the development of eco-farming, hi-tech, low-emission and climate-resilient agriculture associated with livelihood improvement for rural residents.

At present, Viet Nam agriculture is facing some big challenges, ranging from inherent problems to objective factors: smallholders scale and its low competitiveness of products, depleted resources, climate change, post-harvest loss and food waste, insufficient investment, market fluctuation and changing consumer trends of the world.

In addition, Viet Nam is facing three nutrition burdens at the same time, namely high rate of child malnutrition and micronutrient deficiency in mountainous areas, disadvantaged areas and ethnic minority groups; rapidly rising rate of overweight and obesity, and sharply increasing rate of nutrition-related non-communicable diseases in urban areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In March 2023, our Government issued the "National Action Plan for Transformation to Transparent, Accountable and Sustainable Food System in Viet Nam to 2030" which targeted mainly at transforming the food system from production, processing, distribution to consumption in a transparent, responsible and sustainable manner, based on local advantages, contributing to the achievement of Vietnamese and global Sustainable Development Goals.

Viet Nam's food system is moving towards a multi-sectoral and multi-objective approach, including: continued transformation to a transparent, responsible and sustainable food supplier, making a positive contribution to the global food security; smart adaptation to climate change, protection of resources, ecosystems and biodiversity; provision of sustainable livelihoods while ensuring social protection security, especially for the poor and vulnerable.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We need “joint actions” solutions to deal with emerging global crisis by shaping sustainable, resilient, healthy and inclusive food systems. I would like to propose some priorities for FAO and international partners to consider and support Member states, including:

Firstly, supporting countries to implement the Country Programme Framework and to transform the agri-food systems towards resilience, inclusiveness and sustainability. Focus should be on innovative

ways to improve engagement and benefits of smallholder farmers in agricultural value chains, reduce food loss and waste, promote e-commerce, improve the system of traceability, logistics, transport and quality control, develop diversified types of PPP models to attract private investment in sustainable agricultural value chains. Viet Nam wishes to collaborate with all stakeholders to promote agricultural trade as the fundamental basis for regional and global food security.

Second, accelerating the green and digital transformation of agriculture along with the “more from less” approach. Therefore, financial, technological and capacity-building assistance for developing countries is critical for the transition to more multiple values, more sustainable and climate-resilient food systems. Viet Nam stands ready to become a food innovation center in South East Asia, and will continue to actively join initiatives on innovation, inclusive, digital and green transformation in the agricultural sector.

Thirdly, promote the coordination and information sharing in sustainable management of natural resources and water resource, including transboundary water resource, marine resources and South-South cooperation. Enhance active cooperation and support to implement the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction for a cooperation to build a disaster prevention system, enhance the sustainability and resilience to disasters, paying special attention to community-based risk management and sustainable rural development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the Government and people of Viet Nam, I sincerely thank FAO, international community and donors for their precious assistance for the agricultural and rural development in Viet Nam for the past years, and look forward to your continued support and assistance in the future for the implementation of Food System Transformation in the “emerging crisis condition”, making a contribution to deliver progress on all the 17 Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

Finally, on behalf of the Government of Vietnam, I wish to express our warmest congratulations to His Excellency Qu Dongyu on his re-election as the Director General of FAO and to confirm our strong commitment to work with FAO in the coming time.

Thank you very much for your attention.