



# **THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM**

## **PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

### **STATEMENT OF VIET NAM**

**At the Panel discussion on SDG 14 – life below water**

**ECOSOC High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development 2022**

**New York, 07 July 2022**

Thank you Mr. Chairman,

The pressures on ocean and marine resources have increase significantly because of overfishing, pollution and climate change. The unexpected Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and exert detrimental impacts on the global ocean economy. The consequences are even more severe for SIDS, LDCs and vulnerable coastal developing countries like Viet Nam since we are highly dependent on ocean-based economies. Therefore, in this recovery period, further support for developing countries is needed, especially regarding capacity building, financial assistance and the transfer of technologies, expertise sharing, enhancing the scientific content in marine policy planning and implementation to those countries with limited capacity and resources.

Mr. Chairman,

The sea has brought Viet Nam great opportunities for development. Fully understanding of the vast potentials of the oceans and seas and its position in the social, economic and cultural life of the people, Viet Nam has developed its strategy towards sustainable ocean-based economic development with the specific policies date back to the 1990s while the latest is the Strategy for sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy, identifying targets for 2030 and a vision for 2045. We are also in the process of finalizing the National Marine Spatial Plan and the Master plan for the sustainable exploitation and use of coastal resources for the period of 2021 - 2030, with a vision to 2045.

At the same time, Viet Nam shares the concerns over the declining health of the ocean, marine pollution, the adverse impacts of extreme weather phenomena, climate change and sea level rise, and has taken strong actions to prevent and reduce ocean plastic waste. At international level, we have announced our climate ambition, including net-zero emissions by 2050 at COP 26 in Glasgow. We supported the 2017 UNEP Resolution on ocean plastic and microplastic waste and the 2022 UNEA

Resolution on “Ending Plastic Pollution: Towards a Binding Legal Instrument”. In 2021, Viet Nam, Ecuador, Ghana, Germany jointly convened a ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution. At the regional level, Viet Nam together with other ASEAN countries adopted the Bangkok Declaration on Combating Marine Debris in 2019 and launched the Regional Action Plan last May. At national scale, the Law on Environmental Protection was issued in 2020, providing for the management, reuse, recycling, treatment of plastic waste and the development of full circle plastics economy. Our Strategy for Sustainable Development of Marine Economy has identified climate change and sea-level rise as urgent issues and provides concrete directions and actions to join other countries in dealing with these global challenges.

Despite our efforts, it will still be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 14 by 2030. Currently, Viet Nam is only on track to complete target on prohibiting all forms of fisheries subsidies. The remaining targets will either be very difficult to achieve or face vast challenges. Especially, data reflecting the implementation progress of SDG 14 is currently lacking or not collected, leading to difficulties in monitoring and evaluation. Marine pollution becomes increasingly serious as a result of population pressure and economic growth. This is threatening the marine ecosystem and marine resources, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of Vietnamese fishermen. Therefore, Viet Nam is looking forward to further cooperation with and support from other Member Countries in addressing these challenges.

Thank you for your attention./.