



# The Vietnam National Voluntary Presentation: Process, Results and Recommendations for SDG Reviews



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# PROCESS



- ❑ The Government of Viet Nam sent high ranking delegations to attend:
  - The Rio 1992 Earth Summit on Environment and Development;
  - The UN Millennium Summit in New York in 2000;
  - The 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg;
  - The Rio 2012 United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).
- ❑ Vietnam has committed to Sustainable Development and to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

## *Policies aimed at sustainable development*

- ❑ The “Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Viet Nam” (Vietnam Agenda 21) has been adopted by the Government in 2004.
- ❑ The Strategy for sustainable development in Viet Nam for the period of 2011-2020 has been approved by the Prime Minister in 2012
- ❑ The National Action Plan on Sustainable Development in Viet Nam for 2011-2020 has been approved by the Prime Minister in 2013
- ❑ Indicators for monitoring and evaluating local sustainable development for the period 2013-2020 has been promulgated by the Prime Minister in 2013
- ❑ A series of policies have been adopted for sustainable development objectives such as National Green Growth Strategy, National Strategy for climate change, The National Strategy on Environmental Protection, Law on efficient use of energy, Cleaner Production Strategy until 2020 etc.

## *Institutional Framework*

- ❑ The National Council on Sustainable Development (NCSD) was established in 2005, mandated to help the PM guide the implementation of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development on a national scale, monitor and assess the implementation of SD objectives in Vietnam.
- ❑ Ministry of Planning and Investment plays a leading role and is a focal point for Sustainable Development. SD Office within the MPI is Secretariat for the NCSD.
- ❑ A sectoral and local Steering Committee on SD has also been set up in a number of ministries, agencies and provinces to implement the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.
- ❑ Vietnam has also established the Vietnam Business Council on Sustainable Development (VBCSD) with a view to building a Vietnamese business community that is sustainable, energetic and successfully integrating into the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, contributing to the nation's sustainable development.

## **Integration of sustainable development into socio-economic and sectoral development strategies, master plans and plans**

- In the process of the implementation of sustainable development, the internationally agreed principles and objectives have been localized and integrated into the national policies and socio-economic development strategies and plans.
- SD targets/indicators have been integrated into national system of statistic indicators and into socio-economic development plans.
- By integrating SD objectives into the national and sectoral development strategies, plans and programs, the sustainability of development, in other words, the close, reasonable and harmonious combination of the economic development, social development and environmental protection, has been initially established and strongly asserted in reality.

## MDG Implementation

- ❑ Following the MDGs commitment, Vietnam developed the Comprehensive Poverty Reduction and Growth Strategy (CPRGS) under which international MDGs have been mainstreamed and localized to be relevant with Vietnam's specific situations.
- ❑ A number of additional goals were added to the adopted MDGs framework for the formation of the Vietnam Development Goals (VDGs)
- ❑ Since 2006, the CPRGS has been integrated into 5-year and annual socio-economic development plans (SEDPs).
- ❑ These integration and mainstreaming have been institutionalized by the PM's Directives on 5-year SEDP development, as well as by the Ministry of Planning and Investment's guidances.

# PROCESS



## MDG implementation

- ❑ The responsibility of monitoring MDGs progresses has been assigned to MPI.
- ❑ MPI plays the leading role and is responsible for collaborating with other related ministries, agencies and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in developing MDGs Progress reports.
- ❑ There have been four reports developed so far for 2005, 2010, 2013 and the final MDGs Progress Report is being developed for 2015.

## Achievements in Sustainable Development



### *In the economic field*

- Vietnam has been recognized as one among the developing countries which have made notable achievements in economic reform toward growth and poverty reduction.
- Its average annual GDP growth rate was 7.85% during 2000 – 2008; slowed down to 5,5% during 2011-2014 under the impact of global economic recession.
- GDP per capita in 2012 was 1.596 USD, increased by nearly four times as compared with 2000.
- Vietnam has successfully transformed itself from one of the poorest countries in the world into a lower-middle income country.



## Achievements in Sustainable Development



### *In the social field*

- Vietnam has obtained remarkable poverty reduction during the recent decade. The poverty rates have decreased considerably from 14.2% in 2010 to 9.6% in 2012.
- Social security has been paid special attention to protect the citizen's welfare.
- Quality of healthcare and preventive medical care has been markedly enhanced.
- Education also experienced considerable progress. By 2012, net enrolment rate for primary education reached 97.7 percent.
- Vietnam's gender equality index is higher than countries with a similar level of development and income.
- The HDI has also improved over the years, from 0.46 in 1990 to 0.53 in 2000 and reached 0.59 in 2011.

# RESULTS/PROGRESS

## Achievements in Sustainable Development



### *In the environmental field*

- Forest coverage increased slightly from 39.1 percent in 2009 to 39.7 percent in 2011.
- Housing and living condition of households have improved significantly, especially in access to clean water and sanitation of rural households. By 2010, 80 percent of rural population had access to clean water.
- National target Program on Climate change and Green Growth Action Plan are being implemented to facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gases and encourage the use of clean and renewable energy.
- Integration of environment-related issues into strategies, schemes and plans right at the designing stage as well as into projects at the stage of investment preparation has helped limit and minimize environmental pollution.

# RESULTS/PROGRESS

## Achievements in MDGs



- Vietnam has gained remarkable successes, which are highly appraised by the international community, particularly in poverty reduction, gender equality and education.
- Many positive outcomes are seen in other targets: many health related indicators have been achieved; environmental related indicators have been given more concern and specified in state programs and policies; much positive progress can be seen in developing a global partnership for development; and the country is on its way to strengthening its position in the international arena.
- Vietnam made an early completion of MDG1 on eradication of extreme poverty and hunger in 2002; achieved universal primary education in 2010 and is on its way toward achieving universal lower and higher secondary education. Vietnam basically completes the targets on promoting gender equality and women empowerment, is successful in controlling malaria and some dangerous epidemic diseases, initially stops the spread of HIV, and almost completes the target on reducing child mortality.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SDG REVIEWS



## **National and regional reviews could be designed and conducted to help accelerate progress on the SDGs and sustainable development**

- The national reviews should be multi-layered and multi-stakeholder.
- The role of National Councils of Sustainable Development and of other concerned ministries and relevant stakeholders should be emphasized in the review process.
- The national review could be a clear progress review, based on nationally defined indicators and identification of responsibility, but could also include elements of analysis of various action and actors, including non-state actors.
- Review could be limited to certain selected SDGs or themes. It might also involve other existing commitments that not directly part of, but nevertheless relevant to the SDGs. It is crucial that the reviews would not stay only at a general level, but would provide insights into the situation of different groups and regions.

## **National and regional reviews could be designed and conducted to help accelerate progress on the SDGs and sustainable development**

- SDG review should require more accurate and disaggregated data than what may currently be available in many countries.
- Existing national monitoring and review mechanisms should be made use of and further developed. Monitoring of data and tracking the progress against the agreed goals and targets/indicators will be the basis of any analysis or review process.
- Different information and inputs will be needed for the various types of reviews, e.g. quantitative data or qualitative assessments and policy analysis.
- The consultation workshops or forum should be organized focusing on a collective discussion on lessons learned, as well as possibly formulating recommendations. The subsequent review would follow-up on the implementation of recommendations from previous reviews.
- Peer review mechanisms could work at the regional level, and with HLPF and the economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) at the global level. Lessons learnt from existing global level review mechanism should be made use of when building the HLPF review mechanism.

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SDG REVIEWS



## National reviews promote broader accountability

- ❑ To promote broader accountability, the national reviews should be inclusive, participatory and engages people at all levels.
- ❑ Decentralized system of accountability would ensure that all stakeholders take ownership and are incentivized to share, evaluate and adjust their policies.
- ❑ The review could be based on a report of team of peer reviewers, that would include major group representatives, as well as on the national accountability reports.
- ❑ National reviews can take different forms, ranging from basic monitoring to more comprehensive review, and accordingly, to support and advise governments in achieving the SDGs:
  - Monitoring of data on SDGs performance which highlights where progress is and is not on track.
  - Analytical reports on SDGs implementation in the region that would provide an analysis of best practices and make policy recommendations where progress has been poor.
  - Discussions and exchange of experiences and best practices at national meetings.

## **Capacity building enhancement for all relevant stakeholders to assist countries in their national reviews**

- While the review process will be state-led, it will also benefit from the contributions of other stakeholders (civil society, the private sector, academia). Therefore, SDGs review mechanism should be inclusive of all stakeholders in a dynamic and forward-looking manner and in the spirit of partnership.
- Capacity building for all relevant stakeholders should be paid attention to:
  - (i) Increase capacities of all stakeholders to effectively design, initiate and implement SDGs and sustainable development;
  - (ii) Enable all stakeholders to effectively monitor and evaluate the SDG implementation and learn from their experiences;
  - (iii) Improve networks and knowledge building among organizations engaged in SDG and sustainable development implementation;
  - (iv) Increase the effectiveness of existing partnerships for SD and SDG implementation;
  - (v) Enable stakeholders to effectively feed their experience and expertise into national review process

# RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SDG REVIEWS



**The review process could best be used to identify gaps and challenges, or replicate success that could influence the agenda of the HLPF**

- Review process could allow each government to contribute to and benefit from better understanding of gaps and challenges for SDG implementation.
- National SDG reports, prepared by governments could play a key role in the review process and provide important inputs into the regional review.
- Regional review could provide a regional synthesis to the global deliberations and complement the HLPF, taking into account the regional priorities and particularly trans-boundary issues.





**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION**