

# Voluntary National Review - 2023

## Main Messages

### Viet Nam

Since the first VNR in 2018, Viet Nam has experienced a **difficult context** in progressing towards the SDGs due to the COVID-19 prolonged impacts, increased food and fuel prices, external financial instability, and worsening impacts of natural disasters and climate changes. Despite the challenging context, Viet Nam continued to make **strong commitments** to the 2030 Agenda that was institutionalized in the National Action Plan. All 17 SDGs have been **mainstreamed in socio-economic development** strategies, plans, and sectoral policies at national and local levels. The whole **political system and society** have strived to accomplish the SDGs to **Leave No One Behind**.

Viet Nam has made **remarkable progress towards SDG 1, SDG 6, SDG 9, SDG 10, SDG 16 and SDG 17**. Continuing to be on track for **SDG 1**, the multidimensional poverty rate declined from 9.2% to 4.3% between 2016 - 2022. Important achievements were evident for **SDG 6** with 98.3% of households using improved water sources in 2022 (from 93.4% in 2016). Expanded investments in infrastructures, export-oriented industrialization and enabling environment for innovation of enterprises contributed to progress in **SDG 9**. Continued progress was made for **SDG 10** through job creation, expansion of social protection coverage, and enhanced support for vulnerable groups, especially in coping with the COVID-19 negative impacts. Improvements were made for **SDG 16**, with the rate of population and organizations showing their satisfaction with public services increased from 80.9% to 87.2% between 2017 - 2021. After approximately three decades of global and regional integration, being a pro-active and responsible member of the international community, Viet Nam has secured solid improvements under **SDG 17**. Viet Nam needs to maintain the pace of progress and achieved attainments of these SDGs.

For the remaining SDGs, **Viet Nam has made important progress**. **SDG 3** continues to be improved with reduction of child mortality and 92.04% of the population having health insurance in 2022. For **SDG 4**, the rate of transition from primary to lower secondary schools was 99.9% and the percentage of students graduating from lower secondary schools was 98.1% in 2022. Regarding **SDG 7**, the percentage of households with access to electricity was 99.5% in 2022. Viet Nam stands out for fast recovery from COVID-19 pandemic with the GDP growth rate of 8.02% in 2022 while maintaining a low unemployment rate (**SDG 8**). The country progressed towards **SDG 11** with the percentage of population living in temporary houses declining from 2.6% to 0.9% between 2016 - 2022. Viet Nam continues to advance **SDG 13** through the Net Zero commitment that has been integrated into relevant policies.

However, **Viet Nam still faces multiple challenges** and therefore **needs to accelerate** the SDG implementation further. In particular, Viet Nam will prioritize addressing malnutrition among ethnic minority children (**SDG 2**). Extra efforts will be put into improving health and well-being, the expansion of essential healthcare services for all people, especially for vulnerable populations such as the older people and ethnic minorities (**SDG 3**). Viet Nam will also advance **SDG 4** toward equitable access to quality education, especially for vulnerable groups. Combating harmful social norms on gender and gender-biased sex selection will be the key to accelerate **SDG 5**. Increasing renewable energy and boosting energy efficiency will be the focus for **SDG 7**. Viet Nam will continue to prioritize inclusive growth, decent jobs, and enhance labour productivity to further progress **SDG 8**. In addition, Viet Nam will make extra efforts in addressing environmental issues in both urban and rural areas (**SDG 11**); promoting sustainable consumption and production (**SDG 12**); mobilizing resources for disaster risk management and climate change mitigation and adaptation (**SDG 13**); preserving life below water (**SDG 14**); protecting biodiversity and improving ecosystem services (**SDG 15**).

To successfully implement the 2030 Agenda **in the remaining halfway**, Viet Nam will: (1) Prioritize investments in **human capital, science and technology, innovation**; upgrade **infrastructures** to improve productivity, develop a green and circular economy, and build up resilience against natural disasters and **climate change**; (2) Enhance socialism-oriented **market institutions**, foster **public administration reform** and promote the participation of vulnerable groups in decision-making process; (3) Further reform the social protection system to strengthen resilience of communities and support for vulnerable groups; (4) **Stabilize macroeconomic fundamentals**, continue the COVID-19 recovery support, **mobilize and enhance efficient use of financial resources** for sustainable development; (5) Improve **data availability** to enhance the monitoring of SDG progress; (6) Engage all stakeholders and **collaborate with all partners to achieve the SDGs for all by 2030**.