

Remarks

by H.E. Vuong Dinh Hue, President of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam at the 5th World Conference of Speakers of Parliament

(16.30-18.00, September 7, 2021, Vienna, Austria)

Panel 3: The post-pandemic recovery: Transforming the economy to combat climate change and promote sustainable development

Excellency Mr. President,

Ladies and gentlemen,

We are seeking for recovery from devastations of the Covid-19 pandemic while our world is still confronting its impacts. Unfortunately, at the same time we are also facing the increasingly serious effects of climate change, which are threatening the eco-system and people's lives all over the world. This is clearly “a double challenge” to human existence and sustainable development in the future.

Such predicament comes up with urgency requesting countries to reform its institutions and governance model as the Covid-19 pandemic compels us to change the ways of production, doing business, living and social communication, among others. I highly appreciate our topic of discussion today as it is in the news and meaningful to the international community and every parliament member.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The post-pandemic recovery, economic transformation to respond to climate change and foster sustainable development remain major challenges to Viet Nam as a developing country with limited resources. Viet Nam is taking priorities to mobilize all sources and actions, particularly from its people. We put in place strong measures against Covid-19 to realize the dual goal “containing the pandemic, promoting recovery and economic development” in order to support businesses to sustain their supply chains and guarantee social securities for the people.

According to the World Bank, Viet Nam is one of the top ten countries worst hit by climate change and sea level rise. In 2020, extreme weather events caused a total loss of nearly 1% of GDP and eliminated poverty reduction achievements after

decades in several regions. We have carried out a series of comprehensive solutions, including reduction of consumption of fossil fuels and increase of renewable energy to 20% of the power supply by 2030. Since early April, we have commenced the “One billion trees” program by 2025. This program will help reduce an additional 2-3% of emissions by 2030.

Viet Nam submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) at the earliest to the United Nations and the National Assembly of Viet Nam already incorporated the NDC into laws. Accordingly, we are committed to reducing 9% of the total greenhouse gas emissions and up to 27% as we receive international assistance. We attended the UN Summit on Climate Change, including COP 21 in Paris in 2015 and will participate in COP 26 in the UK this November.

We, as parliamentarians, need to support, oversee and urge governments to take strong actions. I would like to share with you the following proposals:

First, parliaments and parliamentarians need to review and enhance legal frameworks, support and supervise governments in the fight against Covid-19, implementation of COP-21 commitments, economic transformation toward green recovery, promotion of circular economy and sustainable development. We also need to help governments address high public debt as it soars during the pandemic.

It is critical to strengthen the public-private partnership, encourage the efforts and innovation of businesses and support the people’s actions.

Second, it is essential to intensify the international and parliamentary cooperation to share experience in curbing the Covid-19 pandemic, increase mutual assistance with regard to vaccine supply, foster cooperation in vaccine production, enhance public health capacity, guarantee social welfare, sustain production and stabilise regional and global value chains. The developed countries need to take the lead in realising commitments on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, providing technical, financial and capability enhancement assistance to the developing ones.

Third, the strengthening of solidarity, cooperation and responsibility for a peaceful and stable environment is the precondition for sustainable development.

Thank you./.

