

**STATEMENT BY H.E. DR. HA CONG TUAN, VICE MINISTER
OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
HEAD OF VIET NAM'S DELEGATION
AT THE 39TH SESSION OF THE FAO CONFERENCE
(Rome, 9 June, 2015)**

Mr. Chairperson,
Yours Excellencies,
Heads of Delegations,
Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to extend my congratulations to Mr. Le Mamea Ropati Mualia for having been trusted to be Chairperson of the Conference.

I would also like to convey my congratulations to Dr. José Graziano da Silva for having been re-elected as FAO Director-General for the term of 2015 to 2019. I strongly believe in the continued successes of the FAO during the new working term of our Director-General.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In Viet Nam, nearly 70 percent of our population live in the rural areas. The *Doi Moi* (Renovation) policy over the last 30 years has reduced poverty rate from 56 percent to 5 percent by 2015.

In 2012, Viet Nam already achieved the MDG 1 on halving the proportion of hungry people, 3 years ahead of time. We are honored to be recognised, once more, by FAO and WFP for the outstanding achievements at this 39th Session of FAO Conference.

Nowadays, Vietnam's Government is implementing the Sustainable Development Strategy to 2020, with several measures to reduce poverty sustainably in the rural areas, focusing on:

First, the National Target Programme on New Rural Development;

Second, the National Target Programme on Sustainable Poverty Reduction;

Third, restructuring for agricultural breakthroughs, moving from the focus on area and production increase to product quality and value, and increased income for farmers;

Fourth, the implementation of social security policies: agricultural insurance, medical insurance for the poor, preferential credit and incentives for businesses investing in agriculture and rural areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam is strongly committed to participate responsibly in realising the theme of our Session, "*Breaking the Cycle of Rural Poverty and Hunger by Strengthening Rural Resilience: Social Protection and Sustainable Agricultural Development*", and we are ready to share our experience, as well as to provide qualified agricultural personnel for the

cooperative projects with FAO and other countries. Many of these activities have been carried out within the framework of the South-South Cooperation Program and other international fora. The success of these cooperation models has received big compliments from FAO, international organizations and participating parties.

However, a current major constraint in this Programme is financial shortage. We hereby would like to call for third parties – countries and organizations – to join the Programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Before I end my statement, on behalf of the people and the Government of Viet Nam, I would like to, once again, extend our sincere thanks to FAO, the international and regional organizations, the governments, non-governmental organizations and civil societies, for having been providing generous and valuable support to Viet Nam in our cause of eradicating hunger, reducing poverty, ensuring food security and sustainable development.

I wish the 39th Session of the FAO Conference a great success!

Wish all of you good health, happiness and prosperity!

Thank you for your kind attention!