



**Statement by H.E. Dr. Le Thi Tuyet Mai  
Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Viet Nam  
to the UN, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva  
at the the Sixty eighth Session of the Trade and Development Board – UNCTAD**

*(Tuesday, 22 June 2021; 10am session under Item 3: General Debate)*

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*President of the Trade and Development Board Ambassador Maimuna Tarishi  
of Tanzania*

*H.E. Isabelle Durant – Acting Secretary of UNCTAD,  
Excellencies and Delegates,*

**I would like to thank the Acting Secretary for her informative annual report today and other insightful presentations by distinguished speakers at the high-level panels yesterday, which provided an overview of the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on trade and development and identified priorities for the LDC-5 Conference and Unctad-15 later this year.**

**1. First, Viet Nam reaffirms our support for strengthening the role of UNCTAD to help countries overcome the challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Covid-19 has posed unprecedented impacts on the world economy, endangering to eliminate the hard-won outcomes of sustainable development made by developing countries, particularly the LDCs, thus far. The pandemic is also seriously affecting the socio-economic development and the people’s life in all countries. Moreover, the pandemic has deeply altered the economic structure and order, method of global governance, economic operation, and organization of social life around the world.**

**Against this background, UNCTAD should continue to assist developing countries through technical cooperation, capacity building, and fostering timely and equitable access of all countries to Covid-19 vaccines and other tools. To ensure effective control of the Covid-19 pandemic, Viet Nam joins the call for reducing intellectual property barriers and sharing information, transfer of technology and know-how for the purpose of scaling up the production and distribution of Covid-19 vaccines and other tools across the globe. Apart from relying on the COVAX Facility and donation by our country partners, Viet Nam is accelerating the research and development of 3 types of homegrown vaccines which are under human trials and hope that they can be put into use locally in 2022.**

2. Second, building back better post-Covid 19 should aim at “green and inclusive recovery”. Accordingly, promoting green growth to ensure greater ecological balance, and address environmental and climate challenges as well as paying greater attention to the social aspects of trade and development, including addressing issues stemming from inequalities and vulnerabilities are of great significance. In this light, Viet Nam believe that promoting social equalities, including gender equality, fundamental human rights of people, particularly the vulnerable groups and environmental sustainability is significant toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals under Agenda 2030.

3. Third, we share the views that UNCTAD should work with other institutions in the field of trade and development such as WTO, ITC in reforming the multilateral trading system, ensuring the flows of trade and investment and sustain the global supply chains as well as strengthening of cooperation **and technical assistance**, particularly in science and technology to help promote digital connectivity and foster digital transformation in developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries.

Viet Nam believes that financial support, information sharing and technology transfer are important not only in bridging the digital divide among the rich and poor countries, scaling up and accelerating vaccine production and distribution to ensure timely and equitable access to vaccines to all people in the world to help forestall the pandemic, but also in building green economy with a net-zero emission, promoting circular economy model, with sustainable management of natural resources.

4. Fourth, Viet Nam upholds multilateralism as a key foreign policy pillar. In this regard, we would like to reiterate the importance of the Fifteen Session of UNCTAD, to be held in a hybrid format in Bridgetown, Barbados and Geneva early this October. This would be a timely and important event to highlight international unity, unanimity, mutual support and mutual assistance in addressing global common challenges **for post-pandemic resilient and inclusive recovery for sustainable development**, in line with the central theme of the Session - “*From inequality and vulnerability to prosperity for all*”.

It is our belief that UNCTAD continue to play a vital role in precipitating systemic changes needed to ensure a better recovery and assisting countries to align the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development with the global “new normal” created by the Covid-19 pandemic.

*I thank you very much!*