

**Statement by Ambassador Dr. Le Thi Tuyet Mai**  
**Permanent Representative of Viet Nam**  
**to the UN, WTO and other International Organizations in Geneva**  
**at the 70th Session of the Trade and Development Board (TDB), UNCTAD**

*(Tuesday, 20 June 2023; 09:30-12:30 session under Item 3: General Debate)*

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*Mr. President,*  
*Madam Secretary General,*  
*Excellencies and distinguished Delegates,*  
*Ladies and Gentlemen,*

At the outset, my Delegation extends warmest congratulation to Ambassador Khalil Hashmi on your election as the President of the 70<sup>th</sup> session of the TDB and other members of the Bureau, including Ambassador Febrian A. Ruddyard, PR of Indonesia, as Vice President.

We also highly appreciate the tireless efforts of Madam Secretary General Rebeca Grynspan for proactively advancing the work of UNCTAD and her insightful annual report as well as her vision for revitalizing UNCTAD's intergovernmental machinery and strengthening UNCTAD's voice in global trade and development.

*Mr. President,*

Viet Nam aligns itself with the Statement of the G77 and China delivered by Tanzania and the Statement of the Asia-Pacific group delivered by Thailand. On this occasion, my Delegation would like to highlight a few points.

**1.** Amid the multiple crises facing the world today, Viet Nam continues supporting the important role of UNCTAD in supporting developing countries in integrating sustainable development goals into trade and investment policies, mobilizing finance for development, addressing issues of debt sustainability, and advocating for fair and inclusive global economic governance. Through its research, analysis, technical assistance, and policy recommendations, UNCTAD provides a platform for and helps developing countries to address challenges and promote sustainable development.

**2.** To strengthen UNCTAD's mandate and revitalize its intergovernmental machinery, my Delegation wishes to emphasize three key points:

*First,* UNCTAD should continue to address emerging issues and pressing challenges in global trade, investment, and development, such as e-commerce, green economy, trade facilitation, quality investment and inclusive development. UNCTAD could do more to help promote sustainable practices, assisting member states in adopting green transformation, digital transition, and facilitating green technology and technology transfer for sustainable development; building digital capabilities, bridge the digital divide, and address issues related to data governance, cybersecurity, and digital trade. In this regard, we highly appreciate the key role of UNCTAD and Madam Secretary General in the Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance as well as your efforts in bringing about the Black Sea Grain Initiative.

*Second,* in dealing with cross-cutting issues relating to SDGs and trade that have been discussed in a number of multilateral fora in Geneva such as global recovery post-Covid-19, green transformation, digital transition, trade facilitation, food security, UNCTAD should enhance close coordination with regional and multilateral organizations, such as the

UNDP, WTO, WHO, WIPO, ITU, ILO, South Centre in sharing evidence-based research and policy recommendations and negotiation process to foster synergies and avoid duplication of efforts for supporting developing countries, enhancing multilateral cooperation towards achieving SDGs.

*Third*, UNCTAD's research and technical assistance should be further enhanced to provide evidence-based policy recommendations and sharing good practices in addressing new challenges. By implementing these measures and adapting to the evolving global landscape, UNCTAD can play a revitalized role in coordinating multilateral efforts for advancing sustainable and inclusive development, promoting fair trade practices, and supporting the needs of developing countries.

**3.** Viet Nam has been an active participant in UNCTAD's activities and has benefited from its support in various areas. UNCTAD's flagship reports, including the Trade and Environment Review and the Technology and Innovation Report has assisted countries, including Viet Nam in formulating and implementing trade-related policies as well as harnessing the potential of digital technologies and green transformation for economic growth and development.

**4.** As one of the countries most negatively affected by climate change and sea level rise, Viet Nam is strongly committed to promoting blue economy, including sustainable management of fisheries and aquaculture, maritime trade and transportation, offshore energy and coastal tourism under the national strategy on sustainable development of Viet Nam's marine economy to 2030, with a vision to 2045 towards achievement of SDGs. Viet Nam has also adopted a national strategy on green growth for the 2021-2030 period, with a vision to 2050.

Our objective is to promote economic restructuring in tandem with environmental sustainability, conserving biodiversity and marine ecosystems and promoting sustainable fishing practices can ensure the long-term viability of the blue economy. Viet Nam also actively participate in the UN system and the WTO's negotiations for an Agreement on fisheries subsidies as an additional tool to sustain the rules-based trading system.

**5.** On the threshold of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNCTAD next year and in preparation for UNCTAD XVI, it is necessary more than ever to enhance the role of UNCTAD in upholding multilateralism, international cooperation, and trans-boundary solidarity and sustaining global governance for more effective response to global challenges for the interests of all countries, particularly the low-income developing countries. Viet Nam reaffirms our full support for Madam SG and the revitalization of UNCTAD and its determination to remain a relevant multilateral force in international trade and development.

It is our belief that by realizing the Bridgetown Covenant – the outcome document of UNCTAD XV and focusing on global pressing issues, including newly arising ones of trade and development, UNCTAD can revitalize its role as an influential collective voice in supporting developing countries, shaping global policies, and fostering equitable and sustainable development for all so that we do not risk leaving anyone behind.

I thank you, Mr. President!