

Speech by Deputy Minister of Planning and Investment Tran Quoc Phuong at the Ceremony to commemorate 45th Years Viet Nam and UNDP Partnership for Sustainable Development

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Ms. Ramla Khalidi, Resident Representative, United Nations Development Programme in Viet Nam

Representatives from Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Diplomatic Corps, International Organizations, development partners in Viet Nam,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of the Ministry of Planning and Investment, I would like to warmly welcome to you to this ceremony to celebrate 45th anniversary of the signing of the Standard Basic Assistance Agreement between the Government of Viet Nam and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), an important milestone marking the strong partnership between Viet Nam and UNDP.

I would like to express my sincere thanks for the kind presence of representatives from the Government, National Assembly, localities, Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners and especially generations of former Vietnamese Government officers who used to be in charge of cooperation with UNDP as well as Vietnamese staff who worked for UNDP during the past 45 years. This is vivid evidence for the comprehensive and substantial development of the partnership for sustainable development between Viet Nam and UNDP over the past years.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Today, at this ballroom, we recognize not only the strong partnership, but also commemorate a memorable journey. To many Vietnamese generations, the name UNDP recalls projects that help to change vision, development thinking, and working closely with the Government in building legal framework to attract foreign investment, business renovation, developing multi-dimensional poverty line, public administration reform, judicial reform, environment protection, green growth, response to climate change, science and technology application, and innovation.

Since May 1978, UNDP has been standing side by side with Viet Nam in its development journey from a poor, war-torn country into a medium-income country that is leading poverty reduction and growth efforts. In addition, cooperation methods between UNDP and Viet Nam in the past 45 years have changed a lot to adapt with the development level of Viet Nam. Projects have gradually shifted from "learning-by-doing" to "partnership" modality, enhancing national ownership and based on the priorities of the Government of Viet Nam.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

With the mutual efforts in contributing to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, leaving no one behind, the Government of Viet Nam always counts on UNDP as one of the most significant, long-term partners and indeed a "close friend", cooperating for the benefit of the Vietnamese people, for peace and prosperity in the region and on the world.

I would like to express my profound thanks to generations of UNDP staff as well as Vietnamese officers who, in the past 45 years, exert continuous attempts to support, nurture the partnership to an excellent level as it is today.

I believe that the 45-year journey of the partnership between Viet Nam and UNDP will continue with strong bond. I wish for the continued prosperity of the cooperation between Vietnam and UNDP, as well as the United Nations as a whole!

I wish you good health!

Thank you!