

THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM

# **NATIONAL REPORT 2020**

## **PROGRESS OF FIVE-YEAR-IMPLEMENTATION OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**(Summary Report)**







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# 1

## INTRODUCTION





Sustainable development is an urgent need and an inevitable trend in the development process of human society. At the United Nations (UN) Summit, which took place from September 25-27, 2015 in New York, USA, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (The 2030 Agenda) was approved by the UN member states. At the Summit, the Head of the State of Viet Nam affirmed that Viet Nam supported and committed to mobilize all necessary resources, all ministries, related agencies, localities, organizations, communities and citizens to successfully implement the 2030 Agenda and all the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

The 2030 Agenda possesses a universal and broad policy coverage for the full benefit of all people around the world, for today and the future generations. The 2030 Agenda sets out the vision for the next 15-year development phase (2016-2030) with 17 sustainable development goals and 169 targets, identifying specific means of implementation, global partnerships and action plans. The global SDGs play the role as a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for the period 2000-2015, and also concretizes the Agenda 21 on sustainable development for the entire 21st century which was approved by the UN in 1992.

To implement its international commitment, on May 10, 2017 the Prime Minister issued the Decision No.622/QĐ-TTg on the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDG NAP). The SDG NAP sets out targets, tasks and assignments of responsibilities for ministries, related agencies and provinces. In the SDG NAP, 17 goals and 169 targets of the 2030 Agenda have been nationalized into 17 Viet Nam SDGs (VSDGs) and 115 targets, based on Viet Nam's development conditions and context. 115 targets reflect the 150/169 global ones.

The year 2020 is of great importance, marking nearly 5 years of Viet Nam's implementation of the 2030 Agenda and being the last year of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy (SEDS) 2011-2020 and the Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP) 2016-2020, creating momentum for the implementation of the SEDP 2021-2025 and the SEDS 2021-2030. After nearly 5 years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda, Viet Nam's ranking on sustainable development index has continuously increased, ranking 49/166 countries in 2020.

The year 2020 also witnessed the Covid-19 pandemic and its global impact. The Covid-19 pandemic is considered to have caused economic and social crisis in many countries, especially in developing and least developed ones, increasing the risk of unfulfilling 17 SDGs by 2030 in many nations. Entering a new period of 2021-2030, the world's and the region's outlook has been more complicated than ever projected. The increasingly serious public debt crisis in many countries, the downturn of the world economy, the acceleration of risks in the international financial and monetary markets, and many



countries' recent intensification of trade protectionism have been taking place. Together with the rapid development of science and technology, the fourth industrial revolution and the digital economy has become one of the major development trends of the era. Natural disasters and epidemics are unpredictable, causing serious damage to the achievements of countries around the world.

In the context that Viet Nam is preparing for implementation of the SEDS 2021-2030 and the SEDP 2021-2025, and after nearly 5 years of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Viet Nam, ***the National Report 2020: on progress of five-year - Implementation of Sustainable Development Goals*** is developed to: (i) Update on five years of implementation and assess the ability to achieve Viet Nam's SDGs by 2030; (ii) Present the challenges and difficulties in the implementation process of SDGs, taking into account the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on a global scale and in Viet Nam; (iii) Propose solutions to promote the implementation of SDGs in the next 5 years.

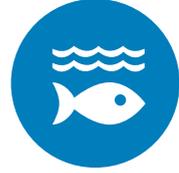
The assessment of the progress of and the ability to achieve SDGs is based on the analysis of data of Viet Nam's sustainable development statistical indicators (issued in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated 22nd January 2019 by the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI)) and Roadmap for the implementation of Viet Nam's SDGs to 2030 (issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated 4th June 2019 by the Prime Minister). The ability to achieve the goals and targets will be presented in 3 levels, including: achieve the goals and target by 2030 (indicated by the green card - or 3 points); still have difficulties and challenges to achieve the goals and targets by 2030 (indicated by the orange card - or 2 points) and very difficult to achieve the goals and targets by 2030 (indicated by the red card - or 1 point)<sup>1</sup>.

The report formulation process was driven by the engagement of ministries and related agencies, socio-political organizations, social organizations, national and international organizations, and representatives from the business community, research institutes and scientists. The information and data used in the report is taken from the Reports on the implementation of the SDGs of ministries and related agencies, data reports of the General Statistics Office (GSO), and other reports which have recently been released by ministries, related agencies, and national and international organizations in various fields. The development and publication of the report has been carried out with technical support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and the Hanns Seidel Stiftung Foundation (HSF)-Germany in Viet Nam.

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<sup>1</sup> The forecast of the achievement of the sustainable development goals to 2030 by 3 levels is based on the analysis of the progress of implementing the sustainable development goals in the past years and forecasting trends in the coming years. The lack of available data and information to reflect the progress toward the sustainable development goals is also seen as a challenge that needs to be addressed.





# 2

## THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND NATIONALIZATION IN VIET NAM





## The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda that was approved by all UN member states in September 2015, provides a master plan for peace and prosperity for people and the planet now and in the future. The key point of the 2030 Agenda is 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is an urgent call for action for all countries in the world to build a sustainable future for everyone, everywhere. SDGs emphasizes that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies on health improvement and education, inequality reduction and economic growth, but at the same time address the problem of climate change, conservation of our oceans and forests.

17 SDGs are formulated and formed based on decades of work by countries and the United Nations, specifically:

- In June 1992, at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, more than 178 countries adopted the Agenda 21, a comprehensive action plan on global partnerships for sustainable development to improve people's lives and protect the environment.
- Member States adopted the Millennium Declaration at the Millennium Summit in September 2000. The Summit led to the development of the eight MDGs to reduce extreme poverty by 2015.
- The Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and the Implementation Plan adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in South Africa in 2002, reaffirmed the global community's commitment on poverty eradication and environmental protection, The Johannesburg Declaration was built on the Agenda 21 and the Millennium Declaration, which put more emphasis on multilateral partnerships.
- At the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio + 20) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012, member countries adopted the outcome document: 'The Future We Want', in which decided to start a process of building SDGs based on MDGs and set up the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.
- In 2013, the UN General Assembly established an Open Working Group of 30 members to develop a proposal on the SDGs.
- In January 2015, the UN General Assembly began the negotiation process on the post 2015 development agenda. The result of this process was the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in September 2015.



## Nationalization in Viet Nam

To implement international commitments, the Prime Minister has issued The National Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (NAP 2030) in the Decision No.622/QĐ-TTg dated 10 May 2020. The NAP 2030 has identified 17 SDGs of Viet Nam to 2030 with 115 targets with 2 phases of implementation: 2017-2020 and 2021-2030. The NAP 2030 has assigned specific responsibilities to ministries, sectors, provinces, and sets out tasks and solutions to implement SDGs in Viet Nam.

To create a legal basis and promote the implementation of the NAP 2030, the Government, the Prime Minister, ministries, sectors and provinces have issued the following documents:

- The Resolution No.136/NQ-CP dated 25/9/2020 of the Government on sustainable development.
- The Directive No.13/CT-TTg dated 20/5/2019 of the Prime Minister on sustainable development.
- The Decision No. 681/QĐ-TTg dated 4/6/2019 of the Prime Minister on the Roadmap for the SDGs implementation to 2030.
- The Decision No. 2158/QĐ-BKHDT dated 31/12/2019 of the Minister of Planning and Investment promulgating guidance on integrating SDGs into the 5-year socio-economic development plan 2021-2025, 2026-2030 for ministries, sectors and provinces.
- 17/22 ministries, sectors and 51/63 provinces issued the Action Plan to implement the 2030 Agenda.

## SDGs Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of the SDGs is central in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Viet Nam. Accordingly, MPI has developed a set of sustainable development statistical indicators of Viet Nam in Circular No.03/2019/TT-BKHDT dated January 22, 2019<sup>2</sup>, which includes: (i) 38 indicators in the National Statistical Indicator System specified in the Law on Statistics 2015; (ii) 112 indicators compatible to 101 global SDGs indicators; (iii) 32 indicators in the Statistical Indicator System of Ministries: Ministry of Education and Training; Ministry of Health; Ministry of Science and Technology;

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2 The set of indicators is built on three main principles: (1) Ensure the reflection and evaluation of 17 SDGs and 115 targets of Viet Nam (corresponding to 17 global SDGs and 145 global targets); (2) Ensuring international compatibility and comparability but still meeting the practical conditions and sustainable development needs of Viet Nam; (3) Ensure the feasibility and consistency with other statistical indicator systems of Viet Nam



Ministry of Construction; Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment; Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs.... Responsibility for collecting and aggregating data for Viet Nam's sustainable development statistical indicators is specified in the Circular No. 03/2019/TT-BKHDT, specifically: GSO is responsible for collecting 62 indicators (39.2%); 21 other ministries and agencies are responsible for collecting 96 indicators (60.8%).

In order to quantify the achievement of SDGs, the Roadmap for the SDGs implementation to 2030 was issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg dated June 4, 2019 of the Prime Minister. The roadmap is the basis for ministries, sectors and provinces to develop targets in their annual and 5-year socio-economic development plans and is a measure of the SDGs achievement by 2020, 2025, 2030.

In order to support ministries, sectors and provinces in SDGs M&E, MPI has issued guidelines for SDGs M&E in Viet Nam until 2030 (the Decision No.468/QD-BKHDT dated March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020). Accordingly, SDGs are monitored and evaluated through a system of 158 indicators (promulgated in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT) and assessed the level achieved by 2020, 2025, and 2030 based on the roadmap for the SDGs implementation in Viet Nam until 2030 (issued in the Decision No.681/QD-TTg). SDGs M&E involves the participation of stakeholders which include: Viet Nam Fatherland Front and socio-political organizations; ministries, sectors and agencies; People's Committees of provinces; social organizations, professional associations; non-governmental organizations; universities, research institutes, professionals, and the business community. Annually, ministries and provinces send reports on the SDGs implementation to MPI for synthesis and submission to the Prime Minister.

According to regulations, M&E reports on the SDGs implementation include:

- Annual Reports on the SDGs implementation.
- National Reports on the SDGs implementation.
- Voluntary National Review on the SDGs implementation (VNR).
- Sustainable development reports by topic, and other irregular reports.

Social organizations, non-governmental organizations, research institutes and other stakeholders are encouraged to submit reports and research on SDGs to MPI and related ministries and agencies.

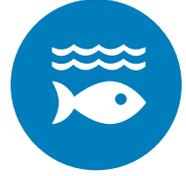
In 2018, Viet Nam was one of 47 countries developing the Voluntary National Review Report at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. The report assessed progress on 17 SDGs of Viet Nam and shared difficulties, challenges and lessons



learned from Viet Nam with other countries in the world. The development of the VNR affirms Viet Nam’s commitment to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, especially in monitoring, evaluation and reporting of SDGs progress.

However, a current difficulty for the M&E of the SDG implementation is the lack of data of indicators defined in the Circular 03/2019/TT-BKHDT. According to the review during the preparation of the National SDGs Report 2020, there are only 114/158 indicators having aggregated data. The lack of disaggregated data, especially according to criteria and target groups (such as children, people with disabilities ...), leads to difficulties in undertaking multi-dimensional review and evaluation of the fulfilment of the “leaving no-one behind” principle of the 2030 Agenda. The lack of data is also an unavoidable limitation in the formulation of the National SDGs Report 2020.





3

# PROGRESS OF IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





**With great efforts and strong determination of the whole political system, Viet Nam has achieved encouraging results in SDGs implementation.**

At global level, Viet Nam's ranking on the SDGs performance has continuously improved in the period from 2016 to 2020. Viet Nam's ranking was as follows<sup>3</sup>: No.88 out of 149 countries in 2016; No. 68 out of 157 countries in 2017; No. 57 out of 156 countries in 2018; No. 54 out of 162 countries in 2019; No.49 out of 166 countries in 2020. Particularly, in 2020, among ASEAN countries, Viet Nam only followed Thailand which ranked 41 out of 166 countries<sup>4</sup>.

The overall analysis and assessment on the progress of 115 targets and 17 SDGs in the recent 5 years as well as the forecast of achievements by 2030 is summarized as follows:

**SDG 1:** Following the successes in poverty reduction and hunger eradication for Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) period, Viet Nam continues to gain impressive results in 2016-2020 on SDG 1 on "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". The Covid-19 pandemic significantly compromised incomes of vulnerable households and increased temporary poverty rates in 2020. Despite this, Viet Nam has the potential to achieve all 4 targets under SDG 1 by 2030. In addition to the continuation of the National Targeted Programme on sustainable poverty reduction, pro-poor policies in the coming period should focus more on vulnerable groups like children, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities and people in difficult areas. Furthermore, social welfare should be enlarged its coverage, particularly social insurance including compulsory and voluntary forms.

**SDG 2:** Even as the Covid-19 pandemic posed immediate impact on target 2.3 by interrupting supply chains and creating difficulties to agricultural exports, leading to lower incomes for the farmers, Viet Nam is basically set to complete SDG 2 by 2030. Among 5 targets, Viet Nam is expected to complete four of them. In terms of grain food production in 2020, Viet Nam is on the list of the top 6 countries and it has become a nation with better sustainable food security than its Asian peers. However, the analysis shows that in the coming time, related policies should pay more attention to upgrading health and physical strength of children in remote and rural areas and ethnic minority areas, address children's obesity problems in big cities, and ensure fair usage of stored gene sources.

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3 According to the Sustainable Development Report for the years 2016-2020 prepared by an independent group of experts from the Network of Sustainable Development Solutions and the Bertelsmann Stiftung Organization.

4 Thailand ranked No. 41, Viet Nam ranked No. 49, Malaysia ranked No. 60, Brunei No. 88, Singapore No. 93, The Philippines No. 99, Indonesia No. 101, Myanmar No. 104, Cambodia No. 106 and Laos No. 116. Source: <https://dashboards.sdgindex.org/rankings>.



**SDG 3:** Despite gaining achievements in universal health care coverage (target 3.7) and in decreasing traffic accidents nationwide over all three criteria (target 3.5) and the prospects of completing 10 out of 19 indicators by 2030, Viet Nam will have difficulties in achieving SDG 3 on “Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages”. In which, it is probable that target 3.9 (implementing the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control) could not be achieved as set out in the roadmap. The six remaining targets including 3.1 (reducing maternal and child mortality), 3.2 (communicable diseases), 3.3 (non-communicable diseases), 3.4 (prevention and treatment of substance abuse), 3.6 (ensuring access to sexual and reproductive health services) and 3.8 (substantially reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water, soil pollution and contamination) will be challenging to achieve by 2030, which requires more efforts in the coming time. The Covid-19 pandemic and social distancing measures have led to disruption in the community healthcare and services; affecting the health of vulnerable groups, which might have a negative impact on the progress of targets such as 3.2, 3.3, 3.6 and 3.7.

**SDG 4:** Viet Nam is basically set to achieve SDG 4 on “Quality and equitable education for all by 2030”, as 6 out of 8 targets related to universal education will be achieved. It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve target 4.4 on quality of skilled labour force meeting market requirements and target 4.5 on equal access to education and training for the vulnerable. These issues need to be solved in the coming time, particularly developing human resources qualified for the labour market within the 4.0 technology industrial revolution. Furthermore, school facilities at all levels need to be further upgraded to ensure a safe, friendly learning environment and ensure standard access for people with disabilities. The Covid-19 pandemic has potentially had an impact on the implementation of SDG 4 in 2020 due to the fact that schools have been closed during social distancing periods.

**SDG 5:** Many indicators related to women’s political participation have improved in recent years, such as the proportion of female members in the National Assembly and People’s Councils at all levels. The proportion of women as directors/owners of businesses also increased rapidly in recent years (target 5.5). Remarkable results have been achieved for women’s sexual and reproductive health care (target 5.6). However, the sex imbalance at birth tends to rise, problems of violence against women and girls have not improved (targets 5.1 and 5.2) and women still spend more time than men in unpaid domestic and care work (target 5.4). In addition, the gaps still exist in realizing policies promoting gender equality. These issues pose a significant challenge for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 5 on “Gender equality” by 2030. It is essential for Viet Nam to more effectively implement legal and policy frameworks to counter all forms of child abuse and violence against women and girls (target 5.2).



**SDG 6:** Although Viet Nam can achieve 3 out of 6 targets by 2030, the country will face difficulties and challenges to achieve SDG 6 on “Clean water and sanitation for all”. Accordingly, two targets that will be difficult to achieve are target 6.3 on water resource quality and pollution control and target 6.4 on effective use of water. Furthermore, challenges lie in realizing target 6.5 on integrated water protection in river basins, lakes. Hence, in the coming time, it is critical to enhance water resource quality control; water pollution control in urban areas and industrial zones; promoting integrated water management in river basins and effective use of water resources.

**SDG 7:** It will be challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 7 on “Affordable and clean energy”. Only 2 out of 4 targets are on track to be reached by 2030: target 7.1 on electricity access for all and reliable cum affordable energy services and target 7.2 on renewable energy contribution in the total end-user energy. Main challenges include: i) Low efficiency of energy use in some sectors; ii) Inadequate mechanisms for investment mobilization in renewable energy; iii) Limited infrastructure and technologies for providing clean and sustainable energy, especially to 1% of households living in remote and difficult areas without access to electricity.

**SDG 8:** Many challenges exist in relation to Viet Nam’s journey to achieve SDG 8 on “Decent work and economic growth”. Although Viet Nam is likely to complete 5 among 10 targets (reaching 50%), including target 8.1 (on GDP per capita growth), target 8.5, 8.6 (job generation), target 8.7 (on eradicating forced and child labour) and target 8.10 (on financial institution improvement). However, the remaining 4 targets will be difficult to achieve, including target 8.2 (on labour productivity and technology renovation), target 8.3 (on decent jobs and growth of micro, small- and medium-sized enterprises), target 8.4 (on effective use of resources and decreasing negative impacts from economic growth on environment) and target 8.9 (on growth of sustainable tourism). Target 8.8 on safe working environment for all will be very challenging to achieve. The Covid-19 pandemic has exacerbated the current difficulties and resulted in more challenging for sustainable economic growth in the coming time.

**SDG 9:** Overall, Viet Nam is facing a lot of difficulties in completing SDG 9 on “Build resilient infrastructure; promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster renovation”. There is a potential to achieve 3 out of 5 targets under this SDG, including target 9.1 (on synchronous and resilient system of transportation infrastructure), target 9.3 (on increasing enterprises’ accessibility to banking services) and target 9.5 (on informatics infrastructure development). However, the two remaining targets will be very challenging to achieve. They are target 9.2 on inclusive and sustainable industrialization, increasing the effectiveness of resources use and applying environmentally clean production process and target 9.4 on improving technology capacity, increasing a number of R&D employees as well as investment for science and technology. These two



are considered very important in the coming time for Viet Nam to be able to close the gaps with other nations in the region.

**SDG 10:** Despite many achievements in improving social equality, Viet Nam still faces a lot of challenges in realizing SDG 10 on “Reduce social inequalities”. It appears possible for Viet Nam to complete 3 amongst 6 targets, including target 10.2 (on empowerment and enhancement of wide participation from all the people), target 10.3 (on assurance of equal opportunities and reduction of inequality of benefit) and target 10.5 (on the representation and voices from developing countries in decision-making process of prestigious international organizations). For other targets, it will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve, therefore, some issues need enhanced efforts: i) Increasing gaps between the richest and the poorest groups (target 10.1); ii) Fiscal and wage policies should assure equality (target 10.4); iii) Migration policies should be well planned and successfully controlled (target 10.6).

**SDG 11:** Viet Nam faces many challenges in implementing SDG 11 on “Sustainable urban and rural development with resilient capacity for all”. Only 3 out of 10 targets are set to be achieved (they include target 11.1 on access to affordable houses; target 11.4 on world heritage protection and target 11.10 on new rural development). Issues that need to be addressed in the coming time are: assurance of a safe and convenient urban transportation system (target 11.2); strengthening the capacity of participatory inclusive urban planning (target 11.3); a significant reduction of losses caused by natural disasters (target 11.5); mitigating environmental pollution impacts on the people in urban areas (target 11.6); assurance of universal access to green public spaces (target 11.7); creating positive links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas (target 11.8); increasing the number of cities and human settlements applying integrated planning and policies (target 11.9).

**SDG 12:** It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 12 on “Sustainable production and consumption” by 2030. There is only one target on track to be achieved by 2030 relating to taxation and pricing policies on fossil fuels (target 12.9). Up to 3 targets considered to be very challenging to achieve by 2030, including: target 12.2 on efficient use of natural resources; target 12.4 on life cycle management of chemicals and wastes; target 12.5 on significant reduction of waste discharge and increase reuse, recycle and energy recovery from waste disposal. The remaining targets (target 12.1 on implementation of 10-year sustainable production and consumption framework; target 12.3 on halving food waste per capita; target 12.6 on encouraging the business community to implement sustainable production and social responsibility; target 12.7 on ensuring sustainable public procurement activities; target 12.8 on ensuring information provided to people on sustainable development) will also face a lot of challenges in the coming time, which requires appropriate efforts and policies.



**SDG 13:** Viet Nam has the potential to complete all 3 targets under SDG 13 on “Climate action”. However, with the increasingly complicated impact from climate change, it is inevitable that Viet Nam pays much attention to the following solutions: (i) Reviewing and completing legal documents and policies on climate change to meet requirements from climate change responses; (ii) Focusing on investment in hydro-meteorological monitoring and forecasting systems to meet the demand, especially demand of real-time/very short-notice forecasts and marine forecasts; mobilizing social resources for these important systems; (iii) Enhancing awareness on climate change responses at all levels, in all sectors and for all people, with a focus on localities; (iv) Promoting international cooperation to attract external resources and strengthening cooperation and coordination in realizing the Paris Agreement and projects/programs/tasks on meteorology and climate change.

**SDG 14:** In general, by 2030, It will be very challenging for Viet Nam to achieve SDG 14 on “Ocean, sea and marine resources conservation and sustainable usage”. Among the 6 targets under this SDG, Viet Nam is only on track to complete target 14.6 on prohibiting all forms of fisheries subsidies. The remaining targets will either be very difficult to achieve (target 14.2 on protection of marine, coastal and islands ecosystems; target 14.5 on the area of marine and coastal reservations) or face vast challenges (target 14.1 on prevention, significant reduction and control of all kinds of marine pollution; target 14.3 on mitigation and treatment of impacts from ocean acidification; target 14.4 on sustainable management and restoration of fish stock). Especially, data reflecting the implementation progress of SDG 14 is currently lacking or not collected, leading to difficulties in M&E. Marine pollution becomes increasingly serious as a result of population pressure and economic growth. This is threatening the marine ecosystem and marine resources, thereby affecting the livelihoods of millions of Vietnamese fishermen.

**SDG 15:** Although gaining great success with 4 targets (target 15.1 on conservation and restoration of wetland ecosystems; target 15.2 on forest coverage increase; target 15.4 on conservation of forest ecosystems of national and international importance and target 15.8 on prevention and control of invasive alien species and genetically modified organisms), Viet Nam is still facing many difficulties and challenges to complete SDG 15, requiring more systematic and stronger solutions in the coming time. Focus should be on addressing problems such as: i) Deforestation and illegally organized logging activities; (ii) Soil degradation; (iii) Decreasing natural habitat areas and high risk for extinction of some endangered species; iv) Ineffective control of endangered wild lives exploitation, illegal trading/trafficking and usage; iii) Limited financial resources for ecology/protected areas and biodiversity conservation.



**SDG 16:** Although possibly achieving 3 targets (target 16.6 on formulation of transparent, effective and accountable institutions; target 16.8 on provision of legal identity for all and target 16.9 on public access to information and protection of fundamental freedom), there are challenges for Viet Nam, in general, to complete SDG 16 by 2030. These difficulties include: (i) Violence under many complicated forms, in particular, increases in violence against child and sex abuse (target 16.1 and 16.2); (ii) Leadership for implementing justice reform activities under the roadmap (target 16.3); (iii) Anti-corruption activities, even though these have brought some positive transformations, breakthrough results have not yet been gained. Corruption overall occurs in complicated ways, especially in sectors of finance-banking, land use management, natural and mineral resources management and public investment (target 16.5); (iv) Limited participation from the people in some provinces in promoting roles and responsibilities of the community in discussing and policy-making process of local issues as well as contributing to the improvement of the Communist Party and government at the local levels (target 16.7).

**SDG 17:** Participating in a series of bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements (FTA), Viet Nam has entered into the era of an extensive international integration process. The national position and voices in international cooperation forums have been increased in all political, socio-economic, cultural, and sports aspects. According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), Viet Nam's competitiveness capacity ranks 67 out of 141 countries and territories, which is a 10 grades increase in comparison to that in 2018. Viet Nam has become one of the leading high growth rate economies in the region and is considered by IMF among the top 20 economies making the largest contribution to global growth in 2019. With the completion of these targets, Viet Nam is set to achieve SDG 17 on strengthening means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development by 2030. It is, however, needs to pay attention to issues of: i) Further promotion of public-private partnership in engaging private investment for sustainable development and ii) Enhancement of sustainable development oriented policies.

**In conclusion, analysis reveals the following forecast towards 2030:**

- + Viet Nam is expected to achieve 5 out of 17 SDGs by 2030 (Goal 1 on no poverty; Goal 2 on zero hunger; Goal 4 on quality education; Goal 13 on climate actions; Goal 17 on global partnerships).
- + However, up to 10 SDGs will still face difficulties and challenges to be completed (Goal 3 on healthy life and well-being; Goal 5 on gender equality; Goal 6 on clean water and sanitation; Goal 7 on affordable and clean energy; Goal 8 on economic growth and decent work; Goal 9 on industry, innovation and infrastructure; Goal 10 on reduction of social inequality; Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities; Goal 15 on protection and sustainable development of forest and biodiversity conservation; Goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions).
- + There are 2 SDGs where it will be very challenging to complete by 2030 (Goal 12 on responsible production and consumption; Goal 14 on conservation and sustainable utilization of oceans, seas and marine resources).
- + Out of 115 targets, 54 targets are expected to be completed (accounting for approximately 47%), but 48 targets (accounting for 41.7%) will still face difficulties and challenges and 13 targets (11.3%) will be very challenging to realize by 2030 (see below Table).

**Table. Summary of the forecast about the ability of realizing the SDGs by 2030<sup>5</sup>**

SDGs	Target realization rating			Goal realization rating
	Achieve	Still face difficulties and challenges	Very challenging	
				3
1.1	3			
1.2	3			
1.3	3			
1.4	3			

<sup>5</sup> Note: 3-Achieve (green); 2-Still face difficulties and challenges (orange) and 1-very challenging (red).



<b>2</b> ZERO HUNGER 				3
2.1	3			
2.2	3			
2.3	3			
2.4	3			
2.5		2		
<b>3</b> GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 				2
3.1		2		
3.2		2		
3.3		2		
3.4		2		
3.5	3			
3.6		2		
3.7	3			
3.8		2		
3.9			1	
<b>4</b> QUALITY EDUCATION 				3
4.1	3			
4.2	3			
4.3	3			
4.4		2		
4.5		2		
4.6	3			
4.7	3			
4.8	3			



<b>5</b> GENDER EQUALITY 				2
5.1		2		
5.2		2		
5.3	3			
5.4		2		
5.5		2		
5.6	3			
5.7		2		
5.8	3			
<b>6</b> CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 				2
6.1	3			
6.2	3			
6.3			1	
6.4			1	
6.5		2		
6.6	3			
<b>7</b> AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 				2
7.1	3			
7.2	3			
7.3			1	
7.4		2		
<b>8</b> DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 				2
8.1	3			
8.2		2		



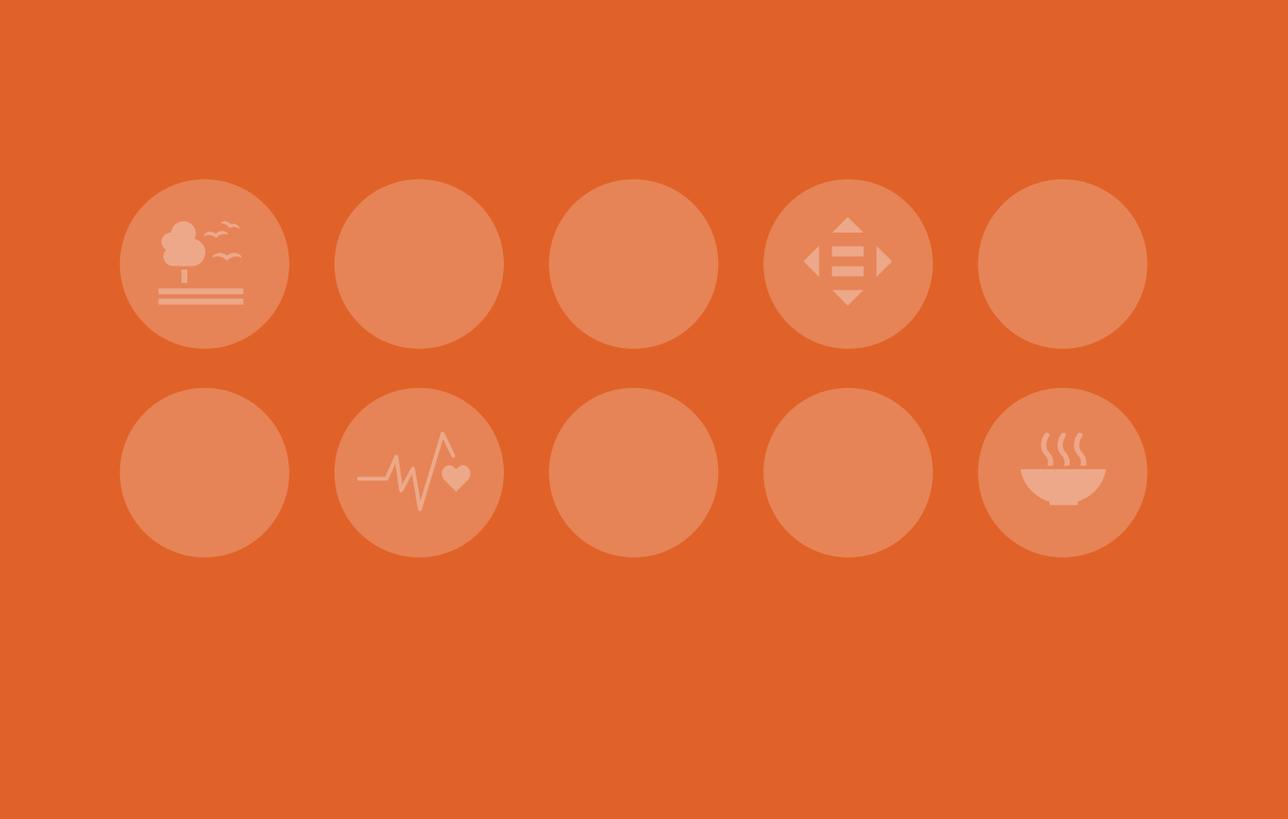
8.3		2		
8.4		2		
8.5	3			
8.6	3			
8.7	3			
8.8			1	
8.9		2		
8.10	3			
<b>9</b> INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 				2
9.1	3			
9.2			1	
9.3	3			
9.4			1	
9.5	3			
<b>10</b> REDUCED INEQUALITIES 				2
10.1		2		
10.2	3			
10.3	3			
10.4		2		
10.5	3			
10.6		2		
<b>11</b> SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES 				2
11.1	3			
11.2		2		
11.3		2		
11.4	3			
11.5		2		
11.6		2		



11.7		2		
11.8		2		
11.9		2		
11.10	3			
<b>12</b> RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 				1
12.1		2		
12.2			1	
12.3		2		
12.4			1	
12.5			1	
12.6		2		
12.7		2		
12.8		2		
12.9	3			
<b>13</b> CLIMATE ACTION 				3
13.1	3			
13.2	3			
13.3	3			
<b>14</b> LIFE BELOW WATER 				1
14.1		2		
14.2			1	
14.3		2		
14.4		2		
14.5			1	
14.6	3			

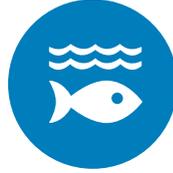


<b>15</b> LIFE ON LAND 				2
15.1	3			
15.2	3			
15.3		2		
15.4	3			
15.5		2		
15.6		2		
15.7		2		
15.8	3			
<b>16</b> PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 				2
16.1		2		
16.2			1	
16.3		2		
16.4		2		
16.5		2		
16.6	3			
16.7		2		
16.8	3			
16.9	3			
<b>17</b> PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 				3
17.1	3			
17.2	3			
17.3	3			
17.4	3			
17.5		2		





# 4



## ROLES AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIETY IN DELIVERING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Sustainable development is a consistent policy by the Communist Party and Government of Viet Nam that draws attention of the whole society. Sustainable development has been represented in all national, sectoral and sub-national socio-economic development plans over several periods.

Throughout the SDGs implementing process, the National Assembly and Government always play central roles in revising and promulgating some key laws related to SDGs; establishing and enforcing policies supporting SDGs and in parallel mobilizing resources for sustainable development of the country. In the recent period of 2016-2020, SDGs have been implemented through set of strategies, plans and policy mechanisms by the Government, line ministries and sub-national authorities. Notably, vulnerable groups like the poor, ethnic minorities, children and women have been paid more attention under the light of “no-one left behind” throughout the national development. The National Targeted Program (NTP) on sustainable poverty reduction and NTP on New Rural Development have mobilized vast resources from the state budget, organizations, corporates and people to achieve poverty reduction and new rural development targets. Recently, the National Assembly passed Resolution 120/2020/QH14 on approval of the NTP on socio-economic development in the mountainous and ethnic minorities areas in the period of 2021-2030, creating important foundations for realizing SDGs in 2021-2030. Policies on health care and education in recent years, on the one hand, aim at improving capacity for qualified service provision, on the other hand, give more attention to vulnerable groups like children, the poor and people with disabilities. Legal and policy frameworks on gender equality have been formed and gradually completed; rights to access education have been institutionalized, maternal health care and women engagement in development process has been improved. The government has also issued many policies and solutions to transform its growth model, increase advanced technology application, endlessly improve productivity, quality, effectiveness and competitiveness of the economy and aimed to enhance sustainable smart and green cities development to enhance physical and spiritual life for the people as well as improve capacities to respond to climate change. In addition, issues related to sustainable production and consumption (SPC) have been carried out under the National Action Plan on SPC. Legal and policy frameworks on forestry protection and development as well as biodiversity conservation have been formulated and enforced in practice. Justice reforms have been carried out to assure human rights for all people. There is vast progress in international integration and foreign economic relations for development in both policy and practice.

The Fatherland Front together with its affiliate members, hand in hand with the National Assembly and the Government, has boosted the national great unity of all people to



jointly implement SDGs via promotion of democracy; social supervision and criticism; against corruptions; bridging the Communist Party, Government and the people in the SDGs implementation process.

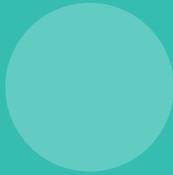
The business community with a large number of corporations from all economic sectors play an important role in SDGs implementation through job and income generation, development of science, technology and innovation-based models.

Social organizations over the years have been playing an important role in the SDGs implementation process, including providing services to the community, in particular to the vulnerable; participating in policy formulation, social supervision and criticism; connecting and mobilizing domestic and external resources for realizing SDGs in Viet Nam.

Development partners are also actively involved in achieving progress towards 2030 through ODA and concessional loans provision for nationally prioritized projects in sectors of transportation, electronics, hunger eradication and poverty reduction, education and training, healthcare and community development in challenging areas. Furthermore, they have been providing technical assistance and shared their experiences during formulation and implementation of national development policies, including the national socio-economic development strategies and plans over several periods and in relation to the nationalization of Agenda 2030 in Viet Nam.

Linkages and interactions between SDGs have been promoted through inter-ministerial coordinating mechanisms/networks, such as: The National Council on Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement; Inter-ministerial Taskforce on SDGs; Viet Nam Business Council for Sustainable Development (VBCSD); Viet Nam Union of Science and Technologies Associations (VUSTA); UN SDGs working group in Viet Nam; Partnership for Leaving-No-One-Behind Viet Nam (LNOB Viet Nam).

In summary, the process for implementing SDGs in recent times recognizes the active contribution and participation from related stakeholders, including the government, Viet Nam Fatherland Front together with the national great unity of all people, business community, social organizations and development partners.





5

**RESTRICTIONS,  
LIMITATIONS/  
DIFFICULTIES,  
CHALLENGES AND  
ORIENTATION  
TO 2025**





**By the end of 2019, SDGs implementation worldwide had achieved some results but not advanced enough in the right direction. However, the Covid-19 pandemic has changed all forecasts and exposed many challenges and risks that make it very challenging to complete SDGs implementation globally by 2030, and Viet Nam has not been exempt**

Although having achieved some progress before the Covid-19 pandemic, the world has faced difficulties and challenges on the road towards completing the SDGs by 2030. The occurrence of Covid-19 pandemic worldwide has caused heavily multi-faceted impacts on the global economy. It may lead to a deepening global economic and social crisis, especially affecting developing and under-developed countries, thus increasing risks for completing 17 SDGs by 2030 in many countries.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, Viet Nam had gained socio-economic successes: a stable macro-economy with increasing trust from the business community and society in general. The quality of economic growth has been gradually improved. Timely support policies have even been introduced for the people and enterprises to overcome the pandemic with high recognition from the international community. The Covid-19 overturned socio-economic achievements in recent years in a way that not only reduced economic growth but also lead to socio-economic challenges that required urgent action. Generally, the Covid-19 pandemic will affect Viet Nam's SDGs implementation progress in the medium and long term.

**Although having obtained positive results in SDGs implementation, Viet Nam faces many challenges in completing the SDGs by 2030**

Without the Covid-19 pandemic, amongst Viet Nam's 115 targets, many will be difficult to achieve by 2030. There are 48 targets (accounting for 41.7%) that will face difficulties and challenges and 13 targets (11.3%) which will be very difficult to achieve by 2030. Additionally, the economy has a lot of barriers in institutions, infrastructures, human resources and environmental pollution in relation to assuring inclusive and comprehensive sustainable development.

Although policies have been directed to support SDGs implementation, Viet Nam still has many challenges relating to consistency and enforcement of those policies. While implementing sustainable development policies requires inter-ministerial and multisector cooperation and coordination with wide participation from the whole political and social system, top-down approaches remain popular in Viet Nam, leading to weak policy coordination among ministries, provinces and social organizations. There is a lack of proactive and innovative participation from related stakeholders and policy-targeted groups during policy formulation and enforcement.



Resource mobilization for SDGs implementation in coming years is predicted to be very difficult, especially with the vastly negative impact from the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic worldwide. The following implications are foreseen: i) it will be difficult to mobilize resources from the state budget since Viet Nam has to reduce import/export taxes according to international free trade agreements; ii) ODA tends to decrease because Viet Nam has become a low middle-income country that has to borrow resources with commercial interest rates; iii) Quality of FDI flow as well as its impact on national sustainable development remains faded; iv) Resource mobilization from the private sector remains low and is only at 46% of the total social investment in 2019, far below the level of other countries in the region; (v) If Covid-19 pandemic would not be under control globally, Viet Nam's economic growth rates in 2020 and the following years would deeply fall in comparison with the previous years, leading to negative consequences on resources mobilization for sustainable development implementation and achievements.

### **Orientations towards 2025**

Viet Nam needs great determination to overcome short-term difficulties, to transform challenges into opportunities and to gather all strength of the nation to continue the success and move towards achieving set SDGs. In the coming 5 years, Viet Nam should focus on realizing the following policy orientations:

*(i) Completing the policy system and improving the effectiveness of policy enforcement.* The policy system should be completed to ensure equal contribution and benefits for all people, especially the vulnerable. Policies' effectiveness should be improved in the following ways: (i) Capacity of policy making organizations should be strengthened with wider participation from targeted groups; (ii) Resources should be prioritized and allocated to policies relating to the interests and living conditions of the majority as well as creating impact or momentum for sustainable development; (iii) Strengthening mutual interaction and coordination among the policy-related agencies and between policy operation bodies and targeted groups. The focus should be given to successful implementation of the socio-economic development strategy 2021-2030 and the socio-economic development plans for the periods of 2021-2025, 2026-2030 as well as sectoral/provincial strategies and plans, as they are key for achieving SDGs by 2030.

*(ii) Awareness raising, coordination and collaboration among stakeholders should be enhanced for broadening out sustainable development implementation. This will ensure wider participation not only from the government, but also from the whole political system and society.* It is inevitable to strengthen cooperation and coordination among line ministries, provinces and stakeholders. Roles of National Council for Sustainable Development and Competitiveness Enhancement and other inter-ministerial



mechanisms should be upgraded for connecting and promoting SDGs implementation. SDGs should be realized at all levels of authority and localized effectively during the development and implementation of policies, plans and programs; National and local statistic capacities on sustainable development should be improved to contribute to the M&E of SDGs implementation. Roles and responsibilities of the business community and civil society organizations in driving innovation to jointly implement SDGs by 2030 should be recognized and acknowledged.

*(iii) Effectively mobilizing and using financial resources.* Formulating and implementing policies to facilitate SMEs development in terms of scale, management skills, market connection and innovation. It is essential to create a fair environment with effective corporate governance rules for both private and state-owned enterprises in a healthy market economy. External resources should be prioritized to projects with highly added value, modern governance models, connecting with global supply chains, spreading impact and close linkages with the domestic economy. Public investment effectiveness needs to be strengthened for promoting sustainable development. It is essential to mainstream SDGs into public investment plans to ensure more sustainable development focused allocation of the state budget.

*(iv) Developing human resources quality accompanied by promoting innovation, science and technology development and application.* Diversifying training approaches based on the market needs and meeting demand of the 4<sup>th</sup> industrial revolution. Enhance the provision of education and training for disadvantaged groups in society. Encouraging the private sector to invest in science, technology, innovation and start-ups. Boosting up national innovation systems and start-up ecology development, rapidly establishing national innovative start-up centers.

*(v) Improve resilient capacity to uncertain risks from climate change, natural disaster and diseases.* Enhancing national capacity in responding and combating risks from climate change, natural disaster and diseases; upgrading database and risk maps on climate change, natural disasters and diseases for building respective responding scenarios; propagandizing, raising awareness and skills of all levels, sectors, businesses and communities in responding to risks; improving capacity in forecasting and early warning on risks from climate change, natural disasters, and diseases; upgrading current risk management systems to minimize vulnerabilities and increase readiness capacity of all social classes to actively respond to extreme climatic phenomena, natural disasters and diseases; carrying out timely and effective solutions for short-term, medium-term and long-term impacts from potential risks in the future; developing and spreading community-based responsive and resilient models in combating climate change and diseases.



*(vi) Proactively engaging in international cooperation and enhancing the role and status of the country.* Strengthening the role and status of Viet Nam in international forums on sustainable development; actively participate in the Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of SDGs at the United Nations High-Level Political Forum. Synchronizing regional priorities in the process of formulating and implementing sustainable development policies in order to create an appropriate legal environment to take opportunities for cooperation, experience and best practices sharing, capacity building and resource mobilization for sustainable development goals.

*(vii) Some specific activities*

Ministries, agencies, and localities need to actively and proactively coordinate with socio-political organizations, social organizations, Vietnamese and international organizations, and the business community in:

- Seriously and effectively implementing the National Action Plan for implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Roadmap for the implementation of the sustainable development goals by 2030, and the Action Plans of ministries, sectors and localities.
- Focus on effective implementation of the goals, tasks and solutions of the Socio-Economic Development Strategy for the period of 2021-2030, the Socio-Economic Development Plan for the period of 2021-2025, 2026- 2030, and sectoral and local strategies and policies to promote the achievement of SDGs by 2030.
- Regularly review and update the implementation of development strategies, master plans, plans, and programs to proactively adjust or report to competent authorities for adjustment.
- Promote information dissemination and information and communication on sustainable development, pay attention to clarifying specific requirements on sustainable development for each type of organization and enterprise.
- Promote the implementation of SDGs in localities. Develop and complete a set of performance evaluation tools that are relevant to the regional and local characteristics, with attention to and promotion of sustainable development in the business community.





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