

Statement by

H.E. AMBASSADOR NGUYEN PHUONG NGA

Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam

At the Launch Event of the Decade for Action “Water for Sustainable Development, 2018-2018”

New York, 22 March 2018

1. At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this important Event. We align ourselves with the statement made by the distinguished Permanent Representative of Egypt on behalf of G77 and China.
2. As we all agree, water is a matter of life and death. Access to water is a cornerstone of socioeconomic development and the achievement of SDGs as a whole. It is a troubling fact that we may face a significant 40% shortfall in water availability by 2030 if the world continues its current path. Time for Action is Now.
3. Viet Nam was a strong supporter of the UNGA Resolution 71/222 on the International Decade for

Action, Water for Sustainable Development 2018-2028. We appreciate the role of the Group of Friends of Water in promoting water-related issues and SDG6.

4. In early March, the International Water Week was organized in Viet Nam, bringing together thought leaders, including representatives from the United Nations, who are pioneering new water solutions with particular emphasis on Viet Nam and tropical water issues. It was a great initiative that we wish to continue and receive support from international partners.

5. We welcome the focus of the Decade on people, with a particular emphasis on women and children. Advocacy and networking activities need to prioritize these groups as they are the ones who suffer the most from the lack of access to clean water and sanitation and, at the same time, the most promising agents of change.

6. Water cooperation is very important, especially for countries most vulnerable to climate change and agricultural economies. Viet Nam believes that trans-boundary water cooperation is a good way of addressing the water-related challenges as it ensures economic prosperity, fosters resilience, creates trust, and enhances security.
7. We also see a clear need to accelerate actions to mobilize means of implementation and encourage best practices and knowledge sharing, the development, dissemination, diffusion and transfer of environmentally sound, water-related technologies to developing countries, with the enhanced participation of the private sector.
8. In conclusion, Mr. President, Viet Nam is committed to work closely with all partners for the success of the Decade for Action, with meaningful changes on the ground for all the people.

I thank you./