SPEECH
DILEVERED BY MINISTER NGUYEN CHI DUNG
AT UNDP/UNFPA EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - UNFPA SESSION
(New York, September 7, 2016)

H.E. President,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Executive Board for creating an opportunity for me to be on behalf of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to deliver a speech at its meeting for confirming our Government's viewpoints on United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Country Program Document for Viet Nam for the period 2017 - 2021. On this occasion, I also wish to express my appreciation and agreement with the remarks and assessments on this Document by the leaders of Regional Office.

H.E. President,

The Government of Vietnam highly appreciates UNFPA's valuable cooperation and assistance to the country and the people of Vietnam over the past 40 year, in which the most striking outcome is UNFPA's accompanying Vietnamese Government in successfully realizing of national objectives and targets on population. The United Nations honored and granted Vietnam with its United Nations Population Award in 1999.

The Government of Vietnam has highly agreed with UNFPA in the formulation of the Country Program Document for the period 2017-2021. The Program is a continuation and development on the basis of the results recorded and experience drawn from the continuous and efficient cooperation process between Vietnam and UNFPA. In addition, priority objectives of Vietnam's national socio-economic development plan and related sector development strategies for the period 2016-2020 have also been integrated into the Program that are consistent with the mandates, purposes and the focus of cooperation and resources capacity UNFPA as well as other development partners.
In my opinion, this is a good program, developed in a careful, thorough and feasible manner and will greatly contribute to the Framework of Joint Cooperation Plan between United Nations Organizations and Vietnam for period 2017-2021 under Delivering as One (DaO) Initiative that has been applying to Vietnam.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Vietnam has become a lower middle income developing country (MIC), which is an important achievement after 30 years of renovation. We acknowledge and appreciate valuable cooperation, assistance and contributions by international organizations and development partners, especially the United Nations Organizations in general and UNFPA in particular. However, with a rapidly and sustainably oriented development strategy, Vietnam will face various challenges, especially the risks of being lagged behind, middle income trap, climate change, international integration, early aging population... The presence and further cooperation, support and contributions by the United Nations Organizations and UNFPA will be a significant encouragement for Vietnam's efforts in its process of advancing towards to building a "green, prosperous, just and civilized" country.

With the goal of becoming an active and responsible member in international community, in addition to the Government's efforts and determination, Vietnam wants, welcomes and will coordinate closely with the United Nations Organizations to successfully implement the Agenda 2030 committed by Vietnam as well as its development objectives.

With UNFPA Country Program for Vietnam, I believe that the two sides' close cooperation will enable Vietnam to successfully implement its national strategy for improving the quality of human resources with a focus placed on the quality of population in a breakthrough manner, specifically as (i) Policies on population and development, linkages between population and socio-economic issues; (ii) Role of youth and adolescent in development; (iii) Enhancement of gender equality in development towards strengthening the role and contribution of women and the responsibility of men.
In the Program for the next period, the above-mentioned will be realized in an effective manner through the application of the new approach that is based on scientific evidence and practical experience, closely linked to national priorities, especially the priorities for ethnic minorities areas, remote and disadvantaged areas, encouraging active and efficient participation of stakeholders, social organizations and the people themselves.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

With this viewpoints, we propose that the Executive Board, UNFPA and the community of development partners continue providing maximum technical assistance and resources to Vietnam, firstly for Cycle 9 (2017-2021), and for the following periods in order to realize the set forth objectives in a successful, sustainable and efficient manner. The Government of Vietnam commits to closely coordinate with UNFPA and the United Nations in general in implementing of the national program as well as One Plan for the period 2017-2021, contributing to achieving our common purpose of: "no one is left behind".

On this occasion, I would like to extent my sincere thanks to UNFPA for its valuable assistance over the past years as well as for the preparation of the Country Program Document for its submission to the Executive Board.

Thank you, H.E. President;

Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen.