

Hanoi, 17th August 2004

**DECISION BY THE PRIME MINISTER
On promulgation of the Strategic Orientation for
Sustainable Development in Vietnam
(Vietnam Agenda 21)**

THE PRIME MINISTER

- Pursuant to the Law on the government's organization dated 25th December 2001

- In consideration of the proposal by the Minister of Planning and Investment

HEREBY DECIDES

Article 1: Issuing the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam (Vietnam Agenda 21) in order to sustainably develop the country on the basis of close, reasonable and harmonious coordination of economic and social development and environmental protection. (The document attached).

The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam is the framework strategy composed of broad orientations, which are the legal foundation for the Ministries, sectors, localities, organizations and relevant individuals to follow and express Vietnam's commitments to the international community.

Article 2: The Minister of Planning and Investment takes responsibility for organizing and guiding the implementation of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.

Ministers, the heads of ministerial level agencies and agencies under the Government, Chairmen of People's committees of the provinces and cities under central management, on basis of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam, formulate and implement their own strategies for sustainable development.

Article 3: This decision will come into effect in 15 days as of its appearance on "Official magazine".

Ministers, heads of ministerial level agencies, agencies under the

Government, chairmen of People's committees of the provinces and cities under central management will take responsibility to implement this decision.

Sent to:

- *Secretariat of the Central Party;*
- *The Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Ministers;*
- *Ministries, ministerial level agencies and agencies under the Government;*
- *The Council of Ethnic Minorities and the National Assembly's Committees;*
- *People's Councils, and People's Committees of the provinces and cities under the central management;*
- *Central Party's Office and Boards;*
- *National Assembly's Office;*
- *State President's Office;*
- *People's Supreme Procuracy,*
- *Central Headquarters of organizations;*
- *National Administrative Institute*
- *The Official Magazine*
- *The Office of the Government: In-charge Minister, Chief of Study Board, Vice-Ministers, Study Board, the Spokes-man of the Prime Minister, Departments, Bureau and Units*
- *Filing at Science and Education Department (5 copies), Record Division*

**PP PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Nguyen Tan Dung (signed)

Hanoi, 17th August 2004

**THE STRATEGIC ORIENTATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN VIETNAM
(VIETNAM AGENDA 21)**

(Issued together with Decision No 153/2004/QĐ-TTg dated 17th August 2004 by the Prime Minister)

INTRODUCTION

The concept of “sustainable development” came into being in movements for environmental protection in early 1970s. In 1987, in the report on “Our Common Future” by the UN’s World Commission on Environment and Development, “sustainable development” was defined as “the development that satisfies the needs of the current generations without compromising the capacity of future generations to satisfy their own needs”.

The Earth Summit on Environment and Development held in Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) in 1992 and the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in Johannesburg (The Republic of South Africa) in 2002 specified that “Sustainable development” is a development process, which has close, reasonable and harmonious combination of three elements of development: economic development (especially economic growth), social development (especially social progress and equality, hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, jobs creation) and environmental protection (especially solving and overcoming pollution, recovering and improving the environment’s quality; preventing fire and deforestation; appropriately exploiting and thriftily utilising natural resources). The criteria for assessing sustainable development are stable economic growth, good implementation of social progress and equality; appropriate exploitation and thrifty utilisation of natural resources, protection and improvement of the living environment’s quality.

Sustainable development is an urgent need and inevitable requirement in the development process of human society. Thus, the agenda for each development period in history has been worked out as a result of consensus and collective efforts of the nations of the world. At the Earth Summit on Environment and Development held in 1992 in Rio De Janeiro (Brazil) 179 participating countries passed the Rio De Janeiro Declaration on Environment and Development, which was composed of 27 basic principles and Agenda 21 on solutions for sustainable development for the whole world in the 21st century. It was recommended by the Summit that specific conditions and characteristics should be taken into account during the formulation process of Agenda 21 at

national, sectoral and local levels. Ten years later, at the World Summit on Sustainable Development held in 2002 in Johannesburg (The Republic of South Africa), 166 participating countries passed the Johannesburg Declaration and the Plan of Implementation on Sustainable Development. The previously stated principles were reaffirmed and the commitment to continue full implementation of the Agenda 21 on Sustainable Development was made in the Summit.

Since the Earth Summit on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro in 1992, 113 countries in the world have developed and implemented their National Agenda 21 on sustainable development and 6,416 local Agenda 21, and at the same time, independent agencies for implementing the programmes have also been established. The countries in the region such as China, Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia have already developed and implemented their Agenda 21.

The Government of Vietnam sent high ranking delegations to the mentioned conferences and made commitments to implementation of sustainable development. Vietnam has worked out and actively implemented the “National Plan on Environment and Development in the period 1991-2000” (Decision No 187-CT dated 12th June 1991), which serves as a foundation for sustainable development in Vietnam. The views about sustainable development are expressed in the Directive No36-CT/TW dated 25th June 1998 by the Polit Bureau about strengthening environmental protection in the period of industrialisation and modernisation of our country, emphasising that “Environmental protection is inseparable from the lines, directions, and socio-economic plans of authorities at all levels and in all sectors and is a significant basis for ensuring sustainable development and successful implementation of the cause of industrialising and modernising the country”. The views about sustainable development are reaffirmed in the documents of 9th National Communist Party Congress and the Strategy for Socio-economic Development in the period 2001-2010 stating that “fast, effective and sustainable development, economic growth should occur in parallel with the implementation of social progress and equality and environmental protection” and “socio economic development is closely tied to environmental protection and improvement, ensuring harmony between the artificial and natural environment and preserving bio-diversity”. Sustainable development has become the aim of the Party and policy of the Government. To reach the objective of sustainable development, many other directives, resolutions of the Party, many normative documents of the State have been enacted and implemented. Many programmes and research theses in this field have been conducted and gained certain achievements; many basic features of sustainable development have been implemented and gradually become the inevitable approach to the country's development process.

During recent years, the socio-economic development of our country has

relied much on exploitation of natural resources; low labour productivity; production technology and consumption patterns that use extensive energy and raw materials and release large amounts of emissions. Rapid population growth, a high ratio of poor households, inadequate basic services on education and health care and unsolved social evils are pressing problems in Vietnam. Natural resources have been exhaustively exploited and wastefully and ineffectively used in many areas. The natural environment has been seriously destroyed in many areas and environmental pollution and deterioration has reached the alarming levels. The system of policies and legal instruments are not uniform to ensure the effective combination of three elements of development; economic, social development and environmental protection. In the strategies, overall planning, socio-economic development plans at national, sectoral and local levels, the mentioned three elements of development have yet to be closely combined and incorporated.

To reach the objective of the sustainable country development as stated in the Resolution of the 9th National Communist Party Congress and in accordance to the international commitments, the Government of Vietnam has issued “The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam” (Vietnam Agenda 21).

The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam is a framework strategy, composed of broad strategies, which are the legal foundations for ministries, sectors, localities, organisations and relevant individuals to follow during their implementation and co-operation activities in order to ensure the sustainable development in Vietnam in the 21st century. The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development raises the challenges facing Vietnam, sets out orientations, policies, legal instruments and priority activities that need to be implemented in the 21st century. The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam can not replace existing strategies, overall planning and plans, but serves as a basis to concretise the socio-economic development strategy in the period 2000-2010, the National Strategy for Environmental Protection Until 2010 and the visions towards 2020 and to develop the 5-year plan 2006-2010 and overall development strategies and plans for sectors and localities with a view to acquiring close, reasonable, harmonious combination of economic development, social progress and equality and environmental protection and ensuring the country’s sustainable development. During the implementing process, the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam shall be regularly reviewed, supplemented, revised and adapted to each development period and updated with new knowledge and concepts to complete the sustainable development path in Vietnam. On the basis of the existing planning system, the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam is focussed on the priority activities that need to be selected and implemented in the coming ten years.

The Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam is composed of five parts.

Part 1: Sustainable development, Vietnam's anticipated path.

Part 2: Priority economic areas for sustainable development.

Part 3: Priority social areas for sustainable development.

Part 4: Priority areas in natural resource utilisation, environmental protection and pollution control for sustainable development.

Part 5: Sustainable development implementation arrangements.

PART 1

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT - VIETNAM'S ANTICIPATED PATH

I. Sustainable development during the past years

1. Achievements

For 18 years of the renovation process, Vietnam has gained great achievements in socio-economic development and environmental protection.

a. Economic development

Vietnam's economy has gradually shifted from a centrally planned economy into a socialist oriented market economy. The economic growth rate is high and relatively stable. In the 1990s the gross domestic product (GDP) witnessed an average 7.5% increase, GDP in the year 2000 doubled that of 1990. In 2003, GDP rose by 7.24%; the average annual economic growth rate was more than 7.1% in the period 2001- 2003.

In the agricultural sector, the food production rose to 37 million tons (convertible measurement unit: rice) in 2003 from 19.9 million tons in 1990; Food amount per head rose to 462 kilos in 2003 from 303 kilos in 1990, not only ensuring sufficient food supply for domestic needs but also bringing Vietnam into the list of the biggest rice exporters in the world. Due to the ensured food security, the farming of agricultural crops for commodities and of animals has developed favourably. Rice, coffee, rubber, cashew nuts, tea, peanuts, vegetables, fruits, pork, aquatic and sea products have become important exports of Vietnam.

The industrial sector has been restructured and gradually grown at stable rate. Over the past 10 years, its average annual growth rate has been 13.6%, of which state sector has increased by 11.4%, non-state sector 11.4% and foreign invested sector 22.5%. In terms of production value, the dimensions of industrial production in 2000 were 3.6 times that of 1990. During the three years from 2001 to 2003, the industrial sector continued to grow at a rapid rate with a 15% increase in production value, of which the share of the state owned sector is 12.1% per year, the contribution of non state and foreign invested sectors are 19.8% and 15.6% per year respectively.

The service industries have expanded; service quality has been improved, satisfying the needs of economic growth and the common people. On average, the production value of the service industries increased by 8.2% in the period 1990-2000 and more than 7% in the period 2001-2003. The domestic market is more open with the participation of many economic components. The sale of goods in the domestic market in 2000 was 12.3 times higher than that in 1990. Over three years (2001-2003), the domestic market became more active with the

total trading goods volume increasing by 12% per year.

Transport infrastructure has quickly developed, meeting needs of socio-economic development. The value of transportation services, storage, and communication has risen by 1.8 times.

The tourism has witnessed rapid development with many tourist centres being upgraded, restored and improved, the type of tourist services offered has been diversified. Especially, during the recent years focus on exploitation of cultural tourism has made the tourism more diverse and attracting to domestic and foreign passengers.

The post and telecommunications industry has quickly developed with the domestic telecommunications network being modernised. Many international standard communication means have been introduced, initially meeting the needs for communication and trading transactions and for the country's economic integration. The markets for insurance services have been formed with the participation of domestic and foreign enterprises. The financial and banking sectors have implemented significant reforms. Other services such as legal consultation, science, technology, education and training, healthcare and so on have started to develop.

Due to production development, effective implementation of financial and monetary regulating policies, the macro-economic environment has been stabilised creating favourable conditions for attracting investment and improving the people's living standards.

b. Social development

Vietnam has gained a lot of significant achievements in social development. The state investment in social areas has been ever increasing, making up for 25% of the state budget, a special priority of which has been hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, employment creation, education and training, vocational training, health care, prevention and fighting against social evils, science and technology, environmental protection as well as other basic social services.

A system of laws has been enacted meeting practical requests and the needs of the renovation process of the country in the new setting such as the civil code, labour code, law on public health care and protection, law on the children's protection and care, law on environmental protection, education law, science and technology law, ordinance on privileges for the people with great contribution to the country, ordinance for the disabled and the insurance law.

Many national target programmes about social development have already,

or are being, implemented with high social effectiveness. Seven national target programmes in the period 1998-2000 have been carried out and gained good social results. These include programmes on hunger elimination and poverty alleviation; employment creation; population and family planning; prevention and fighting against HIV/AIDS; eradication of some social diseases and dangerous epidemics; clean water supply and environmental sanitation in rural areas; reinforcement of talented athletes and focal sport centres; prevention and fighting against crimes. Other target programmes on socio-economic development include those for the communes under special difficulty in mountainous and remote areas, extensive vaccination for children, illiteracy elimination and popularisation of primary education and the prevention and fighting against social evils. National funds for hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, employment creation, return for merit fund, love fund for the needy, the fund for supporting the poor children with high study achievements have been established and effectively run. In the period 2001-2005, six national target programmes on hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, employment creation, clean water supply and environment sanitation in rural areas, population and family planning, prevention and fighting against social diseases and dangerous epidemics and HIV/AIDS, culture, education and training have been approved and gained encouraging initial social results.

The living standards of the people in both urban and rural areas have been visibly improved. The achievements in hunger elimination and poverty alleviation have been highly appreciated in the public opinion of the country and the world. The ratio of poor households in the country declined to 10% in 2000 from 30% in 1992 (according to the former national poverty standards) with an annual fall of nearly 300,000 poor households per year on average. According to the latest national poverty standards, the ratio of poor households in 2003 fell to about 11%. According to internationally comparative poverty standards, the survey on the people's living standards in the period 1993-1998 indicated that the general poverty ratio declined to 37% in 1998 from 58% in 1993 and the ratio of food poor households fell to 15% from 25%. During the period 1991-2000, the number of employed rose to 40.6 million people from 30.9 million, an average annual growth of about 2.9%. Every year, approximately 1.2 million jobs were created.

In 2000, the whole country reached the national targets for illiteracy elimination, popularisation of primary education with more than 90% of the population having accessed to health care services, 60% households having been supplied with clean water, television and radio broadcasting coverage amounting to 85% and 95% of the country's surface.

Social indicators have been considerably improved. Vietnam's human development index (HDI) rose to 0.682 in 1999 from 0.611 in 1992. In the HDI, Vietnam ranked 120th among 162 countries in the world in 1992, 101st in 1999,

109th in 2003 among 175 countries. Compared with some countries with similar GDP per head, Vietnam's HDI is dramatically higher. In terms of the gender development index (GDI), Vietnam ranked 89th among 144 countries in 2003. Women made up 26% of the total number of the National Assembly deputies. Vietnam is one of 15 countries with the highest ratio of women working in state powerful bodies.

c. Utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection

Vietnam has made great efforts to overcome environmental consequences arising from the wars. Many important policies on management and utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection have been developed and implemented during recent years. The state management system on environmental protection has been shaped from central to local level. The activities related to protecting the environment, raising awareness of environmental protection for individuals and organisations have been ever expanded and improved in quality. Education and communication about the environment has been strengthened. Contents about environmental protection have been incorporated into the curriculum in the education system at all levels.

The implementation of the above mentioned policies has resulted in strengthened environment management, more appropriate exploitation and more thrifty utilisation of natural resources, better prevention and control of environmental degradation, pollution and incidents, as well as considerably recovered and improved environmental quality in some areas.

2. Remaining shortcomings

Besides the above achievements, the sustainability of development has not been paid due attention in the socio-economic development plans at national, sectoral and local levels. The following shortcomings have remained:

a. Awareness

The views on sustainable development have yet to be clearly and consistently expressed in the system of state policies and regulatory instruments. The socio-economic policies have still been in favour of economic growth and social stability but have yet to pay a due and full attention to the sustainability in exploitation and utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection. On the other hand, the policies on environmental protection have put too much emphasis on solving environmental incidents, recovering deterioration and improving environmental quality but have yet to refer to long-term development orientations to meet future needs of the society. Planning and plans on socio-economic development and policies on environmental protection have yet to be closely combined and reasonably integrated during the formulating process. The managing and monitoring mechanisms about sustainable development have yet

to be clearly and effectively defined.

b. Economic perspective

Due to limited development resources, there are not enough physical conditions for implementation of sustainable development. Most of the investment has poured into the works serving the immediate benefits, little remained for regeneration of natural resources and environmental protection.

Vietnam's total debt is not high in comparison with that of other countries, and has yet to reach dangerous levels. However, debt has been increasing quickly, threatening the sustainability of the future development, especially when loans are ineffectively used. The processing and manufacturing ratio of materials in Vietnam's economy is very low and the cost for materials and fuel per value of a product unit is still high. The majority of domestically consumed and exported products are raw. Economic growth has relied mainly on extensive development. Meanwhile natural resources are limited and have been exploited to the ceiling of permitted limits.

The tendency of prices of raw products on the global market to fall has caused a lot of difficulties for agricultural growth in Vietnam. With the current production structure Vietnam has to sell more commodities in order to maintain the current export revenue from the world markets..

The development targets of the natural resource consuming industries are in conflict and have yet to be appropriately combined. Authorities at the central and local levels have yet to effectively and efficiently manage the utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection.

c. Social perspective

The increasing pressure of the population growth, the ever serious shortage of jobs and the high ratio of poor households are big obstacles to the sustainable development. The quality of human resources in Vietnam is still low. The quantity and quality of the skilled labour force (in terms of the structure of industries, skills and qualifications) has yet to meet the requirements of labour markets.

The gap between the poor and the rich and social stratification tend to be on rapid increase in the market economy. The consumption pattern of the people has followed that of the developed countries, consuming extensive amount of materials and energy, releasing much more waste and toxic substances. This consuming style has already, and continues, to over burden the natural environment as a consequence of the excessive production of waste and overexploitation.

Some social evils such as drug addiction, prostitution, HIV/AIDS and corruption have yet to be effectively prevented, leading to the loss and waste of wealth, threatening social stability and breaking ecological balance.

d. Utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection

Due to too much emphasis put on economic development especially GDP growth, little care has been paid to the natural system, the arbitrary exploitation and wasteful utilisation of natural resources, resulting in a deteriorated environment and unbalanced eco-systems has been very common. Some production, business, service bases and hospitals have caused serious environment pollution. The rapidly increasing urbanisation rate has led to excessive exploitation of underground water sources, contamination of surface water sources, air pollution, and the accumulation of solid waste. Particularly, the regions which are plentiful in bio-diversity, forests, marine and coastal environments have yet to be properly protected and have been excessively exploited.

Despite of remarkable progress made in environmental protection, environment pollution and deterioration as well as environment quality reduction continues to rise. It indicates that the capacity and operation effectiveness of the system in charge of environmental protection has yet to meet the needs of sustainable development.

Environmental protection activities are inter-sectoral, inter-regional, inter-country and global and need to be carried out at the grassroots levels such as precincts, communes and districts. While a combined environment managing mechanism at regional, inter-regional, inter-sectoral level is still absent, there have remained overlapping of functions, duties among the management levels and sectors in environmental protection. The state management of the environment has been implemented at only the central, sectoral and provincial levels, but not at the district level and no management at commune/ precincts level. Although some plans on socio-economic development at regional level have been built, there has been an absence of legally binding provisions that localities and sectors must participate in the formulation process of such kinds of planning and comply with them.

II. Major objectives, views, principles and priority activities for sustainable development in Vietnam

1. Objectives

The overall objectives in the strategy for socio-economic development in the period 2001-2010 set by the 9th National Communist Party Congress are: “Bring the country out of the less developed state; visibly improve the material, cultural and spiritual life of the people; form a firm foundation so that Vietnam basically becomes an industrialised country by the year 2020; strengthen the

human resource, scientific and technological capacity, infrastructure and economic potentials, national defence and security; establish a socialist oriented market economic structure; improve the position of the country in the international arena". These views on the development are confirmed in the strategy as follows "Rapid, effective, efficient and sustainable development, economic growth is accompanied with the implementation of social progress, equity and environmental protection"; "Socio-economic development is closely bound to environmental protection and improvement, ensuring the harmony between artificial and natural environment, preserve bio-diversity".

The overall objective of the sustainable development is to create a materially, culturally and spiritually plentiful life for the people, quality of life for all citizens, the consensus of society and harmony between the people and the nature. The development is to be a tight, reasonable and harmonious combination of three elements: economic development, social equity and environmental protection.

The objective of sustainable development in economic terms is to obtain a stable economic growth rate with an appropriate economic structure, satisfy the people's demands for living standards improvement, avoid economic depressions and stagnation in the future and avoid leaving heavy burdens of debts to future generations.

The objective of the sustainable development in social terms is to obtain high results in the implementation of social progress and equality, ensure ever improved nutrition in diets and quality of health care for the people, ensure opportunities of education and employment for all people, reduce hunger and the poverty ratio and lessen economic disparity among different social classes and groups, reduce social evils, improve equality in rights and duties of members and generations in a society, maintain and develop the diversity and identity of natural culture, constantly upgrade the civilisation levels in the material and spiritual life.

The objective of the sustainable development in environmental terms is to appropriately exploit and thriftily and effectively utilise natural resources; effectively prevent, stop, solve and control environmental pollution, protect the living environment; protect the national gardens, natural preservation zones, air storage areas, preserve bio-diversity; overcome environment deterioration and improve the environment's quality.

2. Main principles

To reach the mentioned objectives, it is essential to follow the following main principles in the development process:

First, human beings are the centre of sustainable development. In order to

meet ever more fully material and spiritual needs of all strata of the people, building a rich and strong country and an equal, democratic and civilised society is the first and utmost principle for all phases of development.

Second, consider economic development as the central task in the coming development period, ensure food security, energy supply for the sustainable development, guarantee food hygiene and safety for the people; closely, appropriately and harmoniously combine with the social development; reasonably exploit, thriftily and effectively utilise natural resources within the permitted limits in conformity with a sustainable eco-system and environmental protection. Step by step implement the principle “all aspects: economic, social and environmental ones enjoy benefits”.

Third, protection and improvement of environment quality are to be considered as an inseparable factor from the development process. Actively and dynamically prevent and stop bad impacts caused by human activities on the environment. Widely apply the principle “the polluters will pay for the damages they have caused to natural resources and environment”. Build up a legal system that is uniform and enforceable for environmental protection. Take initiatives to link and issue legally binding regulations on integration of environmental protection into socio-economic development plans, programmes and projects. Consider environmental protection as an important indicator for assessing sustainable development.

Fourth, the development process must equally satisfy the needs of the current generations without causing obstacles for the life of future generations. Create conditions so that all communities have equal opportunities to develop, access to common resources, fairly enjoy public benefits and create material, knowledgeable, cultural foundations for future generations. Thriftily use non-renewable natural resources, protect and improve the living environment, develop the environmentally friendly and clean production models; form healthy living style which is in harmony with, close and fond of nature.

Fifth, science and technology is the foundation and momentum for the country’s industrialisation, modernisation, quick, strong and sustainable development. Priority should be given to wide application of modern, clean and environmentally friendly technology in production industries especially in the sectors and fields which have far reaching impact and capability to stimulate the development of many other sectors and production fields.

Sixth, sustainable development is the cause of the whole Party, authorities at all levels, the ministries, sectors and localities, agencies, businesses, social organisations, population communities and the whole people. The participation of all relevant people must be mobilised to the highest possible extent in selecting proposals on socio-economic development and environmental protection for their

localities as well as the country. The people's access to information must be ensured and the role of all strata of the people especially women, young men and ethnic minorities should be strengthened in the decision making process too big and long term investment projects of the country.

Seventh, in order to develop the country sustainably, the establishment of an independent and autonomous economy is tightly attached to the international economic integration on basis of self initiative. In order to do this Vietnam must; develop bilateral and multilateral relations, and implement the international and regional commitments; selectively absorb advancements in science and technology and strengthen international cooperation for sustainable development. Bringing into the full play of comparative advantages, improving the quality, effectiveness and competitive capacity should be given attention. Take initiative to prevent, stop negative impacts on environment arisen during the process of globalisation and international economic integration.

Eighth, social-economic development, environmental protection should be closely combined with guarantee of national defence and security as well as social safety and order.

3. Priority areas

a. Economic field

- Maintain rapid and stable economic growth rate on basis of continuous improvement in effectiveness, content of science and technology, thrifty utilisation of natural resources and environment improvement.

- Shift production and technology modes as well as consumption patterns towards cleaner and environmentally friendly direction on basis of thrifty utilisation of non renewable natural resources, minimisation of the amount of toxic waste and substances with difficult dissolubility, maintain the society and individuals' lifestyle which is in harmony and close to nature.

- Implement the clean industrialisation process. Formulate planning on industrial development with appropriate structures of industries, job categories, technologies and equipments that must comply with environmentally friendly principles as early as possible; Actively prevent and deal with industrial pollution, develop "green industries".

- Promote the sustainable agricultural and rural development. Together with the production development, more and more goods are produced to meet the market's demands. However, food safety and hygiene must be ensured, natural resources, such as land, water, air, forest and bio-diversity, must be preserved and developed.

- Implement regional sustainable development and build local communities towards sustainable development.

b. Social field

- Concentrate efforts on hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, job generation; create equal opportunities for all people to participate in social, cultural, political activities and activities concerning economic development and environmental protection.

- Further lower the population growth rate and pressure of the population growth on jobs creation, medical services, health care, education and vocational training for the people, environmental and ecological protection.

- Orient urbanisation and migration process towards sustainable development of urban areas. Reasonably allocate the population and labour force for areas to ensure sustainable socio-economic development and environmental protection in all localities.

- Improve education quality with a view to raising intellectual levels, qualifications and skills to satisfy the requirements of the country's development process.

- Develop in quantity and improve in quality healthcare services, improve working conditions and sanitation of the living environment.

c. Natural resources and environment

- Prevent and combat land deterioration, effectively and sustainably utilise land resources.

- Protect water environment, sustainably utilise water resources.

- Appropriately exploit and thriftily and sustainably utilise mineral resources.

- Protect marine, coastal, island environment and develop marine resources.

- Protect and develop forests.

- Reduce air pollution in urban and industrial areas.

- Effectively manage solid and toxic wastes.

- Preserve bio-diversity.

- Alleviate climate changes and restrict the detrimental impacts of climate changes, prevent and combat natural disasters.

PART 2

PRIORITY ECONOMIC AREAS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Maintain rapid and sustainable economic growth rate

The strategy for socio-economic development in period 2001-2010 states that the economic development for the first ten years of the 21st century must be rapid, effective and sustainable with GDP in 2010 doubling that of 2000.

To maintain relatively rapid, stable and sustainable long-term economic growth rate, it is essential to follow the following major orientations:

1. Continue to accelerate economic renovation in order to form and perfect socialist oriented market economy mechanism, which includes the following approaches:

- Continue to improve macro policies in order to create equal and effective business environment, stimulate competitiveness, create trust for enterprises and individuals to invest in production development. Encourage long-term development of collective and private economic components. Continue to reform, develop and improve the effectiveness and efficiency of state owned enterprises. Actively attract foreign investment.

- Maintain stable macro economic environment by perfecting financial policies, balancing budget, implementing monetary stability and controlling inflation.

- Promote international economic integration and commercial liberalisation.

- Speed up administrative reform in order to step by step build an effective, transparent, capable administration to meet requirements of sustainable development. Develop democracy, keep up disciplines and order, strengthen legislation. Build up the staff of capable state cadres and officials with good morals.

2. Shift an economy that relies mainly on extensive development into one which relies mainly on in-depth development as a basis of effective application of advanced science and technology to raise labour productivity and competitive capacity of products and services, improve effectiveness of the economy in general and investment in particular.

3. Shift an economy characterised by extensive exploitation and utilisation of raw materials into one characterised by more skilful goods processing capacity with a view to increasing added value for each unit of exploited natural resources. Gradually transform the participation in international markets with processed products and services instead of raw products. Attention must be paid

to increase content of science and technology in products and services.

4. Thoroughly save resources in the development process, effectively and efficiently utilise scarce natural resources, control consumption so that it will not encroach upon welfare of future generations.

5. Form an accounting system of environment economy. Study and incorporate environmental and social aspects into the system of national accounting (SNA). The combined economic, social and environmental accounting system will cover at least one accounting sub-system of natural resources.

II. Transform production and consumption patterns towards environmentally friendly direction

During recent times, owing to the high economic growth rate and open economic policies, the people's consumption has been considerably improved. However, there have remained some consumption tendencies that have negative impacts on sustainable development.

1. A part of the population especially in urban areas is biased toward traditional consumption patterns using extensive amounts of raw materials that are detrimental for saving of natural resources and sustainable development. Ostentatious and wasteful consumption patterns become ever more common among some strata of the people, challenging the living styles which are thrifty, close and harmonious to the nature and traditional moral values.

Exhausting exploitation of rare and precious animal and plant species and non-renewable natural resources has been common. More and more food chemicals, growth stimulants and products modifying genes have been popularly applied.

Increasing domestic energy consumption for residential purposes and transportation has led to greater consumption of oil and coal, worsening environment pollution. Meanwhile, little attention has been paid to research, application and popularisation of kinds of alternative clean energy which are of great potential, commonly usable in households such as solar, wind energy, small hydroelectric stations, biogas, and so on. There has been an absence of inventive policies to develop means of transport which save energy, have small transportation capacity, consume clean and environmentally friendly energy.

2. In goods production and consumption, wasteful utilisation of natural resources for unreasonable demands tends to become more common. The consumption of alcohol, beer and cigarettes has been increasing at a speed that is not corresponding to the current living standards and income levels of the people. Drug and alcohol addiction have not declined yet. More and more non-renewable

materials and substances with difficult dissolubility (such as metal, PVC) have been released.

3. Concrete policies and measures to guide reasonable consumption particularly financial policies and institutions for encouraging environmentally friendly consumption patterns have still been absent.

4. A part of the population is living under the poverty line, unable to meet their own basic needs for food, clothing, accommodation, education, other commodities and essential services. Poverty is one of the causes leading to arbitrary exploitation and wasteful and inappropriate utilisation of natural resources. It hinders implementation of effective consumption patterns towards further sustainable development.

Priority activities to change the current consumption patterns include:

a. Restructure production activities and services for consumption purposes

To change current consumption patterns, first of all, influence production methods and techniques with a view to forming a production system with technology assemblies which consume less energy and materials and discharge less waste, especially toxic waste, at the same time.

- As for the existing production systems, review and regulate technical standards and upgrade the technology in order to raise environmental effectiveness of products, encourage invention of new products which save energy and materials as well as release less waste.

- Encourage application of cleaner and environmentally friendly technologies, recycling technologies and waste and scrap heap reusing technologies.

- Establish a reasonable commodities structure to satisfy basic needs for food, clothing, accommodation, education, health care and entertainment for all strata of the people. Put an emphasis on renovating products, constantly improve the quality of products and services and reduce their prices and take into account environmentally friendly criteria in order to raise consumption quality and effectiveness of natural resources utilisation.

- Develop and improve intensive farming degree of combined production and services industries that can protect and improve environment such as afforestation, aqua-culture and tourism. Restrict production of alcohol, beer, cigarettes, food and commodities that contain toxic agents.

b. Take necessary measures towards appropriate consumption

- Propagandise and educate for healthy life styles and reasonable consumption patterns among strata of the people especially young men and teenagers. Build up a consumption culture which is civilised, rich in national identity, harmonious and close to nature.

- Launch movements for thrifty consumption and against wasteful consumption tendencies. Bring into full play positive roles of mass organisations, all strata of the people in promoting, educating, implementing and supervising the movement “The whole people practice thrifty consumption”.

- Use some economic instruments (such as consumption tax) to regulate inappropriate consuming behaviours.

- Continue the implementation of supporting policies for the people in especially difficult areas to meet their own basic needs.

III. Implement the “clean industrialisation” process

- Vigorously accelerating the industrialisation process is Vietnam’s central task in the coming decade. To implement the strategy “Clean industrialisation”, it is necessary to plan industrial development with the structure of industries, jobs categories, technologies and equipments which comply with the environmentally friendly principles as early as during the initial periods; actively prevent and solve industrial pollution, build up the “green industry”; incorporate environmental standards into the list of the most essential criteria for selecting industries which are encouraged for investment, production technology modes and product categories, plan industrial and export processing zones and work out plans on preventing, ending, solving and monitoring pollution.

Priority activities for the implementation of the “clean industrialisation process”:

1. Legislative perspective

- Review the all-over planning on socio-economic development for focal economic areas, development plans for economic sectors especially the ones that have big impacts on the environment in order to ensure sustainable industrial development, thrifty utilisation of natural resources, effective pollution control and waste management.

- Institutionalise the incorporation of environmental considerations into the formulation process of annual, five-year and long-term socio-economic development plans for the whole country, ministries, sectors and localities from central to grassroots levels. Perfect procedures of environmental impacts assessment, closely monitor the implementation of environmental impact assessments, strictly abide by the provision requesting the implementation of

environmental impact assessments prior to investment licenses being granted to enterprises.

- Build up normative documents and policy mechanisms to promote substitution of the obsolete, extensive energy and materials consuming production technologies with advanced, modern and environmentally friendly ones.

- Encourage clean production, propagandise, educate and raise the public awareness of clean production's significance and their benefits in the sustainable development among enterprises and communities.

- Establish clean production standards and principles that are compatible with economic development levels. Research and develop technologies and equipments for clean production, strengthen coordination between production bases and developers of clean technologies, at the same time, promote their application in the production process.

- Study and issue some regulations requesting large and medium sized enterprises and businesses to establish their environment self-observing and monitoring system to provide the information about wastes, pollution degrees caused by their production activities. Study and issue indexes on permitted maximum pollution levels in industrial zones. Quickly build up the trained staff in environment management in industrial zones.

2. Economic perspective

- In the restructuring process of industries, priority is to be given to the development of environmentally friendly and clean industries. Develop and promote application of suitable and advanced environmental protection technologies and equipments; formulate projects with full and detailed study about measures on pollution control and environmental protection.

- Establish and develop hi-tech zones. Enact standards on safety and environmental protection for industries especially oil exploiting and processing industry, industrial electricity, electronics, auto and motorbike manufacturing.

- Step by step raise the investment ratio for clean technology development.

- Formulate an appropriate economic structure, ensure ever increasing ratio of clean technologies.

3. Technical and technological perspective

- Prevent the pollution caused by new industrial bases through perfecting inspection procedures on environmental impact assessments, especially request strict compliance with the provision on implementation of environmental impact

assessments prior to investment licenses being granted.

- Minimise pollution caused by production, business and service activities of the existing bases. Thoroughly deal with serious polluters, requesting them to install pollution treating and monitoring equipment, upgrade or renew production technologies, and implement partial or total removal of these bases from populous residential areas, stop their operation as the highest sanction. Every year, conduct statistical surveys and re-evaluate serious polluters on the whole national scale in order to bring pollution under control.

- Execute environmental impact assessments in large and medium sized mines nationwide and make reports on the state of environmental management in the mining sector and relevant processing industries. The serious pollution causing mines will be requested to make investment to reduce pollution to permitted levels or be subject to closure. Professional agencies of the people's committees of provinces and cities under central management will conduct environment impacts assessment on small sized mining and processing operations within their own authority. All new mining projects are subject to careful review and selection and detailed environment impacts assessment especially in terms of mining and processing technologies, utilisation and discharge of chemicals, restoration and maintenance of dumping sites and infrastructure construction.

4. Sustainable development of some industries having special impacts on environment

Some economic industries such as energy, mining, construction, transportation and tourism have significant impacts on the environment. It is essential to build action programmes soon to ensure sustainable development with special attention given to application of advanced mining technologies which save natural resources and energy, reduce emission and pollution, encouragement in utilisation of renewable energy and improvement of environment and eco-systems in mining sites.

a. Energy

Energy is the key industry of the economy and also has the biggest impact on the environment due to the fact that coal mining activities, oil and gas exploitation in seabed and energy production and consumption all release a lot of waste.

To successfully implement sustainable development, it is necessary to execute the following priority activities:

- Strengthen legal basis for production and business activities, energy consumption and environmental protection. Perfect the state energy management system and enhance capacity in formulation of energy development planning and

plans.

- Select production technologies and make optimal use of energy kinds; select policy instruments, work out development programmes with a view to the implementation of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.

- Support research, development, transfer and application of energy systems harmless to the environment including new and renewable energy sources. Encourage utilisation of less energy consuming technologies, actively execute energy saving programmes. Priority should be given to developing renewable energy sources through financial incentives, other policies in the strategy for national energy development.

- Specific solutions on technology and management organisation for each energy sub-industry are needed to implement programmes and projects on reducing negative environmental impacts in production and business performance and energy consumption.

- Actively participate in international co-operative and exchanging activities related to the UNDP framework convention on climate change in 1992, which Vietnam signed on 16th November 1994 and is a member of. Import and apply advanced foreign technologies in coal exploiting, washing and processing industry. Use foreign capital and apply advanced foreign technologies to renovate and upgrade technologies of coal industry.

b. Mineral exploitation

Minerals are a non-renewable natural resource. Vietnam has got more than 1,000 mines in operation exploiting over 50 different kinds of minerals. Currently, the management of the minerals exploiting industry is loose and arbitrary exploitation is relatively common especially in mines, which are widely scattered in different localities. In addition to wastefulness in natural resources due to low ultimate collection ratio of useful minerals content, the utilisation of obsolete technologies in the minerals exploiting industry has resulted in depletion of forest coverage, land erosion and sliding, depositing and pollution of rivers and streams and coastal areas.

To successfully implement sustainable development, it is essential to carry out the following priority activities:

- Use economic and administrative instruments and legal regulations in order to strictly and more effectively enforce the minerals law.

- Perfect the system of mineral resources management at central and local levels. Formulate a consistent planning on utilisation of mineral resources and

environmental protection.

- Upgrade exploiting, winnowing and processing technologies in order to make a full use of natural resources and protect the environment. Research the technologies applied for kinds of ores with low mineral content with a view to thoroughly utilising all minerals in mines as well as reducing the amount of wasteland and stone and reducing disposing sites at the same time. Find solutions to recollect useful substances from waste ore in order to clean the environment and avoid waste of natural resources.

- Appropriately organise exploiting procedures, avoid prior exploitation of easy to extract mines leaving behind difficult to extract ones as this has bad effects on minerals supervision, evaluation and exploitation planning. Restrict and prohibit in the near future spontaneous and arbitrary exploitation.

- As for mineral resources in riverbeds, it is necessary to zone mining areas, avoid banks sliding and changes of running flows.

- Increase investment in restoration, regeneration and improvement of the ecology in mining areas.

c. Transport industry

The technical infrastructure structure for landway, railway, waterway, airway transportation, which is unevenly distributed, has been expanding and being perfected. It has created favourable conditions for transport services to rapidly develop, meeting the production, business and circulation needs of the society, industrialisation process and travelling needs of the people. The intensive construction of many transport infrastructure works in the future will improve the landscape, environment and transport conditions making positive contribution to the cause of the country's industrialisation and modernisation and improving the people's living standards. However, transportation growth has exposed some challenges for sustainable development:

- A part of the population must move from clearing sites for project implementation to new resettlement areas ending in big change in their life; a part of arable land will be lost.

- Danger for pollution of waste air, dust, noise, rivers and seas is likely to increase.

- The construction of transport infrastructure will require a large amount of funds, most of which will come from foreign loans and result in increasing debt burdens on future generations.

To successfully implement sustainable development, it is essential to carry out the following priority activities:

- Build up a uniform policy system in order to sustainably develop the transport sector, including policies on land use, infrastructure development, construction of a public transport network, at the same time, encourage the participation of the private sector in transportation development, and utilisation of transport means which have low energy consumption and release less polluting emission.

- Planning on traffic network must be in uniform with planning for ecological areas, nature preservation sites in order to ensure that the development of technical infrastructure system and services growth are harmonious with regional economic development and natural environmental protection.

- Focus on development of public traffic network in big urban areas. Use economic and administrative instruments to encourage utilisation of public transport means. Restrict growth of private transport means, which consume a lot of fuel, waste natural resources and cause pollution. At the same time encourage invention and popularisation of environmentally friendly transport vehicles.

- Rapidly develop the rural traffic network to well serve socio-economic development and transport needs of the people, especially in rural, mountainous and remote areas.

- Promote, educate and popularise traffic laws and laws on traffic safety in order to reduce traffic accidents.

d. Trading

In the renovation process of the economic structure, the commercial sector has experienced the quickest growth rate. Besides positive impacts on socio-economic development, international economic integration and commercial liberalisation, commerce also increases risks of breaking the sustainability of the development.

- Currently, Vietnam mainly exports raw and roughly processed goods. However, it has made further positive progress in goods structure towards growth in the volume of processed goods. Export promotion is synonymous with increasing exploitation of natural resources. Without protection, regeneration of natural resources and a step-by-step shift into more sophisticated processing of material sources, the natural resources will be quickly exhausted, and the environment will become overburdened and deteriorate.

- The import of goods which contain toxic agents and substances with difficult dissolubility also increases the waste volume.

- The import of old and obsolete materials and equipment not only causes environmental pollution but also hinders improvements in labour productivity and effectiveness of production and business as well as has detrimental impacts

on the health of the public.

To successfully implement sustainable development, it is essential to carry out the following priority activities:

- Build up market strategies in order to satisfy needs of the domestic market and promote formation of appropriate consumption patterns.

- Perfect the legal foundation, state management mechanism about commerce and markets in order to develop domestic markets and expand commercial relations with foreign countries.

- Build up long-term plans and restructure categories of export goods towards growth in processing ratio, added value of export goods and services and gradual reduction in export of raw and roughly processed natural resources.

- Closely supervise the import of goods, technology assemblies and equipments to minimise the amount of emissions, at the same time, encourage the import of environmentally friendly technology assemblies and equipments.

e. Tourism

Vietnam's tourist potential is great. Tourism development has created more jobs and income, restored many cultural traditions, and improved some beauty spots and places of historical and cultural interest. However, on the other hand, it also affects sustainable development.

- Hotels, tourist and entertainment works have “boomed” without careful planning, in many cases destroying beauty spots and places of historical interest.

- Some sensitive eco-systems with high bio-diversity such as national gardens, nature preservation sites and coastal areas have been intruded on and drastically changed.

- The amount of polluting waste in big and intensive tourist sites especially coastal tourist areas has been ever increasing.

- The domestic social and cultural environment under the influences of foreign lifestyles has changed in bad direction. Prostitution, drug addiction, social diseases and HIV/AIDS are immediate consequences of the tourist development.

To successfully implement sustainable development, it is essential to carry out the following priority activities:

- Integrate socio-cultural development and environmental protection into planning on tourist development and tourist business performance. Perfect

state mechanisms for tourist management including incorporation of sustainable development requirements into state management on tourism.

- Execute environment impacts assessment on all projects on tourist development and tourist business performance.

- Encourage ecological tourist development. Support local communities to be involved in tourist management within their own localities in order to increase economic benefits and at the same time, supervise and minimise negative impacts of tourists on the environment, cultural traditions and living conditions of the local people.

- Promote investment, strengthen promotion and educating activities to raise public awareness of preservation of natural, historical and cultural heritages of our nation. Mobilise the wide participation of authorities at all levels, tourist businesses and local communities in ecological and cultural tourism development, protection of heritages and environment.

IV. Agricultural and rural sustainable development

Agriculture, forestry and fishery are the most important economic industries of Vietnam which produce one fourth (1/4) of GDP. In the 1990s, Vietnam's agriculture and rural areas made great strides. Food production especially rice experienced constant growth in terms of coverage and productivity ensuring national food security and bringing Vietnam into the list of the biggest rice exporters in the world. Intensive farming has become dominating tendency in the agriculture with application of new scientific and technological achievements in breeding, farming procedures, and products processing. The agricultural structure and rural economy have shifted towards goods diversification and market orientation. However, there have remained quite a few challenges to the sustainable development in agricultural and rural fields. They are:

- Arable land in rural areas which is divided into small plots and widely scattered is not suitable for intensive and big sized goods production.

- Agricultural mechanisation and application of advanced technical procedures in agricultural production have progressed slowly. Most agricultural production is manual, leading to low agricultural labour productivity.

- The industry has small impacts on agriculture, forestry and fishery especially the processing industry of agricultural products.

- Markets for agricultural products are not stable with their prices fluctuating unfavourably for farmers.

- Reduction in diversity of genes in species of plants and animals due to the

substitution of traditional breeds with new ones causes more difficulties for pest prevention and combat. Arbitrary utilisation of chemical fertilisers, pesticides, herbicides and growth hormones has heralded excess of permitted environmental limits, resulting in land deterioration, contamination of water sources, and negative impacts on human health.

- Small sized industries, handicraft industry, vocational villages have witnessed strong development in many rural areas, attracting about two million employees, creating more jobs and increasing income for the population. However, utilisation of obsolete technologies, weak competitive capacity and shortages of markets has hindered stable development of this sector. In parallel with positive impacts, due to unplanned development and inadequate investment for environmental protection, the small sized production sector is causing pollution for the living environment of the rural communities, especially in some vocational villages where production sites have been located among populous residential areas.

- Exploitation of land resources, underground resources, forests, animals and plants in rural areas is wasting many non-renewable and precious natural resources.

Priority activities for the sustainable agricultural development:

1. Legislative perspective

- Perfect the legal system, and uniform policies on agricultural development, management and protection system on land and water resources, breeds of plants and animals and other natural resources used in agriculture, forestry and fishery; advance farming methods and environmental protection in agriculture and rural areas.

- Strengthen co-ordination among managing agencies of sectors, agencies in charge of agricultural and rural areas and other managing agencies. Continuously foster the managing staff at central and local levels in order to strengthen their managing capacity for the sustainable agricultural development.

- Make rural development planning, appropriately encourage the urbanisation of rural areas through policies concerning finance, technology development and population with a view to creating sustainable development in both rural and urban areas, establish reasonable relationship in labour division, implement inter-change and inter-promotion between rural and urban areas, enrich material, cultural and spiritual life.

2. Economic perspective

- Promote land transition in areas where land is widely scattered and divided into

small plots by exchange of land plots among households, merging of the plots to facilitate application of modern and intensive farming methods.

- Work out and implement programmes on land productivity raising and appropriate utilisation of water sources in localities. Apply production systems of combined agriculture-forestry, combined agriculture-forestry-fishery that are suitable for ecological conditions of each regions in order to make combined and effective use of land, water resources as well as types of climates.

- Expand production and markets for clean agricultural products, pay attention to quality monitoring to build trust among consumers on safety and hygiene of food and agricultural products.

- Develop the food processing industries for animal husbandry, aquaculture and the processing of edible oil, sugar, vegetables, and fruits in order to increase product diversification, dimensions, effectiveness of food and food-stuff production. Improve environment quality of the processing industry. Perfect storing and preserving systems, food processing and distributing systems at all levels especially the national food reserve.

- Speed up the restructuring process of the economy, breeds of plants and domestic animals, make use of the rural labour force. Diversify the production and business mechanisms in order to create more jobs on-site, increase income, reallocate the rural labour force, create conditions for settlement, and reduce pressure caused by the migration from rural to urban areas.

- Further consolidate and perfect the existing technical service system in agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry and aquaculture. Establish a guiding system for producing and consuming agricultural products.

- Build the rural infrastructure, develop irrigating works in order to increase irrigated land coverage. Solve clean water supply for the people and domestic animals in poor areas.

- The development of industries, non-agricultural enterprises in rural areas must be accompanied with construction and expansion of intensive industrial zones with the ensured infrastructure to restrict pollution risks. Research to form the network of organisations in charge of consultancy, training, technical support for developing the industry and handicraft in rural areas, traditional vocational villages. Take initiatives to plan and construct zones of vocational villages, intensive industrial and handicraft zones in rural areas to develop economy and alleviate their environment pollution caused by the development at the same time.

3. Technical and technological perspective

- Research and apply biological technologies to develop breeds of

domestic animals and plants that have high productivity, good quality and strong resistance against pests, do not deteriorate, do not have bad affects on bio-diversity. Establish centres of high quality breeds production, selectively import and carefully inspect breeds of plants and animals.

- Develop production of organic and biological fertilisers, fertilisers with slow dissolubility for the development of ecological agriculture.

- Expand application of organic agriculture production, popularise combined pests prevention and combat procedures (IPM).

- Preserve sources of genes of breeding plants and animals in localities.

- Promote research and application of advanced technologies to preserve and process products of agriculture, forestry and aquaculture.

V. Sustainable development of regions and localities

Vietnam has 64 provinces and cities under central management, which are divided into eight economic geographical areas. All provinces in the country have built their own long-term development planning until 2010. Regional planning has also been worked out. However, there has not been the coordination in provincial and regional planning. There has not existed the state administration at regional level, thus, there have not been plans on development, supervision and development impacts assessment at the regional level. Meanwhile, sustainable development often covers regional territories requesting coordination of many provinces and cities.

The strategy for regional development, on the one hand, must give prior priority to development of focal economic areas which can make a breakthrough, on the other hand it must pay attention to support regions under state of less development and more difficult circumstances in order to reach a certain balance in spatial development, step-by-step, narrow the social gap towards decline in economic disparity in the coming years. Focal economic development areas will take the leading role and serve as momentum to push ahead mountainous, remote areas or areas under more difficult circumstances.

To ensure sustainability in formulation and implementation of regional planning, it is essential to renovate the existing management system in the following directions:

1. Strengthen capacity and raise awareness and sense of responsibility about sustainable development for local authorities. As local governments are directly involved in directing socio-economic development and utilisation of natural resources in order to serve benefits of their own localities and have insight about environment impacts caused by socio-economic development

projects in their own localities, they are in best position to conduct planning and make plans on sustainable development in their localities.

2. Areas and regions have to bring into full play their comparative advantages to develop and create their own strengths in accordance with open economic structures which attach the domestic market needs with those of foreign markets. The state continues to further promote focal economic areas creating momentum in rapid economic growth and, at the same time, creating favourable conditions and make further investment in areas with more difficulties. National, regional, provincial and municipal development planning must be consistent creating direct linkages in production, commerce and investment, technical assistance and human resources. Raise the intellectual level of the people and train human resources to meet socio-economic development needs of areas and regions.

3. Attract wide participation of organisations, unions, and all strata of the people in selection and implementation of development approaches of their localities in accordance to the principle “The people know, the people discuss, the people do and the people examine”.

4. Strengthen the co-ordination among state managing agencies to ensure inter-sectors, inter-regions, and inter-territories development.

5. To ensure the sustainable development for regions and localities, it is necessary to build up sustainable development programmes for each region and locality. On basis of analysis of natural potentials, human resources, comparative advantages and difficulties for the development as well as analysis of the current status of socio-economic development and environmental protection, local sustainable development programmes will define targets, directions, and contents of sectoral and regional development in perspective of sustainable development; set out a systems of approaches to carry out the targets, contents and orientations for socio-economic development including policies related to sustainable utilisation of natural resources and environmental protection.

PART 3

PRIORITY SOCIAL AREAS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Great attempts should be made to eliminate hunger, alleviate poverty and speed up the implementation of social progress and equity

Over last ten years, Vietnam has made large achievements in hunger elimination and poverty alleviation. At the beginning of the new millennium, poor people still account for a considerable share of Vietnam's population. According to the current national poverty standard, the ratio of poor households in Vietnam in early 2001 is about 17%, equivalent to 2.8 millions poor households nationwide (if based on the international poverty standard, the ratio is 32%). Furthermore, a sizeable part of the population has still been living just a little bit over the poverty line. Poor people have few opportunities to access basic social services and are vulnerable to risks in life such as natural disasters, crops loss and diseases. A high possibility of poverty recurrence makes it difficult to maintain achievements in the cause of hunger elimination and poverty alleviation. Now, there are 2,300 communes under special difficulty, constituting 22% of the total number of communes all over the country. Disparity in living standards among regions and social groups is not high but on tends to increase. Resources that can be mobilised for hunger elimination and poverty alleviation are too small in comparison to the demands.

In the coming decade, Vietnam needs to focus on the following points in its implementation of social progress and equity.

- Eliminate hunger and alleviate poverty.
- Narrow the gap in socio-economic development between rural and urban areas, mountainous and plain areas.
- Support the ethnic minorities in socio-economic development activities and environmental protection.
- Empower positions of women in activities concerned with socio-economic development and protection of natural resources and environment.
- Create conditions for vulnerable social groups to integrate into communities.

To reach the above-mentioned targets, it is essential to implement the following **priority activities**:

1. Consider hunger elimination and poverty alleviation as core

activities of the socio-economic development strategy, with emphasis on supporting and creating conditions for poor people and poor households to have materials, means for production and service performance in order to ensure food security at household level, improve income to get out of poverty by their own efforts. Create opportunities for poor people to access basic social services especially education, health care and clean water supply. Minimise risks caused by natural disasters, storms and flood as well as negative impacts arising from the economic reform process. Ensure sustainability in hunger elimination and poverty alleviation. At the same time, support poor communes in development of infrastructure, production, services and narrow the disparity in the development level and living standards among regions and strata of the population.

2. Great efforts should be made to assist poor localities in economic development through transition of economic structure and structure of plants and livestock with high economic values, development of goods production, labour structure towards progressive growth in proportion of the workforce used in the industry and service sectors and gradual reduction in proportion of the workforce used in agriculture.

3. Create close combination among programmes on hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, socio-economic development, environmental protection and improvement. Build and replant residential areas. Encourage people to legitimately and legally become rich, at the same time, speed up hunger elimination and poverty alleviation, improve living standards in poor communes and areas, narrow disparity in living standards among regions, ethnicities, strata of people and improve life quality.

4. In the near future the focus of hunger elimination and poverty alleviation will be on the most difficult areas (the communes under special difficulty, former revolutionary bases, highland, bordering areas, islands, remote areas, ethnic minorities) and priority groups are poor women and children.

5. The policies on social support and natural disaster prevention and risk reduction for groups in weak position must be well implemented through the socialisation mechanism or “The State and people do together”. Focus on perfecting the social welfare network to meet essential and pressing needs of vulnerable groups, the people under difficult circumstances, victims of wars and natural disasters, help them to integrate into the community, prevent and restrict chronic hunger recurrence and poverty recurrence. It is also an important condition to ensure social progress, equality, stability and sustainable development.

6. Encourage the poor to make full use of their capacity, rise up by their own efforts to get out of poverty, combine supports from the State and other

communities to sustainably implement hunger elimination and poverty alleviation. Strengthen and diversify resources for hunger elimination, poverty alleviation, develop capacity as a main task, effectively utilise international co-operation sources to speed up hunger elimination and poverty alleviation.

7. Issue policies and incentive mechanisms for application of scientific and technological progress, transfer of suitable technology to poor communes and poor people in order to execute socio-economic development, create jobs and improve income for the poor.

II. Continue to reduce population growth rate and create jobs for the working force

Vietnam has a large proportion of the population and plentiful, young and self-motivating workforce in economic activities. During some past decades, Vietnam has implemented the strategies on population, family planning mainly concentrating on reduction in natural population growth rate and has gained encouraging results. The population growth rate has been basically brought under control, alleviating pressure of the population size on development.

Despite certain achievements gained in controlling the population growth rate, a lot of matters concerning size, structure, quality and allocation of the population are still big challenges to Vietnam's sustainable development in the coming years.

- Rapid population growth is the prime cause of the reduction in forest coverage, exhaustion of natural resources and environmental deterioration.

- The workforce lacks jobs; the quality of the human resource is still poor.

- The rapid population growth has led to demand exceeding supply in terms of health care and education services which in turn have caused numerous problems: a high ratio of childhood malnutrition, low average height and weight of children which possibly result in the population's deterioration, increasing drop out ratio; increasing disparity in education among regions, ethnic groups; difficulty in improving education quality.

It is essential to implement the following **priority activities** to cope with the mentioned problems:

1. Firmly maintain reduction in birth rate and improve the population quality in physical, intellectual and spiritual regards

The results in birth reduction from now until 2010 will play decisive role in stabilising the population size. Vietnam's population size is expected to be stabilised by the mid 21st century, fluctuating from 122 million people as the

highest level to nearly 113 million people as the lowest level. To reach the target, the following activities should be carried out:

- Perfect, consolidate, and stabilise the organisational systems and the staff in charge of population issues at all levels, especially at grassroots level in order to undertake formulation, management and implementation of programmes on population and development. Further strengthen the leading role of the Party and authorities at all levels in population work.

- Strengthen promotion, educating activities to raise awareness and change behaviour about population and reproductive health as well as family planning. Attention should be paid to locations under difficult socio-economic circumstances and groups with limited knowledge. Expand and improve the quality of communication, education activities on population in and outside schools.

- Improve the quality of reproductive health care and family planning services through contents that are practical and suitable to primary health care framework. Restrict to the lowest possible level the ratio of unexpected pregnancies, quickly reduce the abortion rate, and contribute in improvement of the population quality.

- Improve the capacity for collecting, processing and providing information, data related to population issues in order to evaluate the implementation of the population strategies and programmes; Ensure incorporation of population data into decision making and planning processes with the purpose of regulating socio-economic development and appropriately allocating population in response to population changes.

- Improve the people's intellectual level, strengthen the role of families and implement gender equality in order to raise population quality in physical, intellectual and spiritual regards.

- Mobilise the combined strength of the whole society to involve in population work, create favourable conditions so that individuals, families and the whole community volunteer and initiate participation in population work. Build up and perfect the system of policies on population and development, which serves as legal basis and momentum to speed up the implementation process.

- Ensure sufficient funds and operating conditions for implementation of population work. Effectively allocate and use resources for population work.

2. Job creation

Job creation is decisive in bringing into full play human resources in

economic development and make the society stable and healthy, as well as meet urgent needs of the people.

The population at working ages is estimated to increase from 45.4 million people currently to about 60 million people in 2010. The target is to create millions of jobs every year, take advantage of unused working time of the working force especially idle time in rural areas and the agricultural field, at the same time, shift the labour structure so that it is compatible with the economic structure under industrialisation and modernisation process. To reach the goal, it is necessary to implement the following activities:

- Transit the economic structure towards increasing the proportion of the industrial sector, construction and services, reduction in proportion of the agricultural sector in order to create an economy with a structure which attracts a lot of workers and create many new jobs.

- Renovate and reform the mechanism for mobilising, using and managing investment funds in direction of diversification of capital mobilising forms, regular regulation of interest rates and simplification of procedures concerning money depositing and withdrawing in order to mobilise more and more idle fund sources of the people. Quickly speed up equitisation and formation of capital markets, well operate these kinds of markets with a view to rapidly and easily mobilising and moving capital among sectors and economic industries. Renovate the structure of state investment utilisation, increase long and medium term capital sources, support funds for the people particularly farmers in job creation and economic transition.

- Improve processing degree of products to create more jobs and expand labour markets. Focus on renovating and renewing technology and improving labour skills and qualifications, creating and developing capacity of processing industries in order to increase the dimensions and share of processed export goods and reduce production of raw materials. Seek and expand markets, especially consider promotion of labour and experts export as the leading activity. Implement vocational training to send more and more employees to work abroad.

- Form, develop and effectively regulate domestic labour markets. Build and organise an information system on labour markets. The development of jobs service system that operates transparently and effectively under the market mechanism should be encouraged.

- Step-by-step complete the legal framework on labour and jobs in order to develop healthy labour relationships, protect legal and legitimate rights of employees and employers.

- Develop an education and vocational training system, strengthen linkage between the education and vocational training system, labour markets and jobs service, promoting system as well.

III. Orient the process of urbanisation and population migration towards the sustainable development of urban areas, appropriate allocation of population and labour forces for each region

Since the early 1990s, the urbanisation process has been taking place at a rapid rate. According to the general population survey in 1999, there were 17.9 million urban residents, making up for 23.45% of the total population. Our country has 623 urban areas in total (including 5 cities under central management, 82 municipalities under provincial management and 537 towns).

The urbanisation process is facing the following challenges:

- Urban planning and infrastructure investment in most urban areas in Vietnam lags behind the urban socio-economic development rate and has yet to meet requirements about environmental protection especially poor and obsolete conditions of the water supply system, drainage system, systems of solid waste collection and treatment and the traffic system.

- Although great efforts have been made to repair and upgrade the urban technical infrastructure in big cities, it is still in poor conditions, unable to meet the standards of modern urban areas. Environmental pollution, destruction of urban ecology balance and natural landscape are of public concern.

- Lack of integration of environmental protection into urban planning has caused more environmental problems, making it more difficult to overcome consequences. The most obvious signals are the construction of polluting enterprises among populous residential areas, shortage of infrastructure and waste treatment facilities, which result in serious pollution.

- Rapid urbanisation rate and increasing migration from rural to urban areas put ever rising pressure of housing and urban environment sanitation.

Priority activities for the implementation of the sustainable urban development:

1. Review the overall planning to ensure the sustainable urban development

In circumstances under which the country's industrialisation and modernisation have been speeded up, urban areas play a particularly important role in economic, social and cultural development, guarantee of security and

national defence and environmental protection.

The target of the overall urban development planning is to build up a relatively perfect national system of urban areas with modern economic, social and technical infrastructure, clean urban environment, which are adequately distributed and developed all over the country so that each urban area in the system can bring into full play of its comparative advantages towards stable, sustainable and long standing development on basis of its location and functions.

The overall urban development planning must be reviewed especially in perspectives of sustainable development principles in order to ensure the sustainable development of the whole urban system of the country in general and each urban area in particular.

Vietnam's overall urban development planning for the period 1997-2020 was approved by the Prime Minister in the decision 10/1998/QĐ-TTg dated 23rd January 1998. According to this planning, formation and development of urban areas in our country in the future must follow the following principles:

- Compatible with the allocation and development level of the production force;

- Appropriately distribute large, medium and small sized urban areas all over regions, speed up rural urbanisation and construct new rural modes at the same time, create balanced development for three parts of the country: North, Central and South, step-by-step lessen the disparity in socio-economic development among areas.

- Establish uniform infrastructure at suitable and modern levels depending requests about exploitation and utilisation of zones in each municipality.

- Develop in stable, sustainable and long-term manner on basis of appropriate organisation of living environment and environmental protection.

- Restoration must combine with new construction; Respect and preservation of cultural identity and national traditions as well as application of scientific and technological advancements in the process of urban construction, renovation and modernisation must be paid simultaneous attention taking into account realistic conditions of Vietnam;

- Establish close combination between guarantee of security and national defence as well as social order and safety.

- Mobilise all sources of funds for urban renovation and construction, ensure that urban development is in good order and in conformity with the approved plan and legal provisions.

2. Minimise impacts on environment caused by the urbanisation process through the following activities

- Step by step upgrade the system of construction environment sanitation standards in city and house design and planning. Establish and develop the monitoring system to ensure good implementation of environmental protection and disease prevention in the urban construction process.

- Strengthen collection and treatment of solid residential and industrial wastes in urban and industrial zones, locate landfills that are far away from residential areas; Utilise recycling technology to reuse or process waste into fertiliser.

- Consolidate and strengthen capacity for agencies in charge of urban environment sanitation.

- Establish inter-sector boards to manage urban environment sanitation headed by leaders of the people's committees at corresponding authority levels.

3. Orient immigration flows according to regions and rural-urban areas

Migration takes the role of population redistribution to improve effectiveness in utilisation of natural resources, funds and labour forces. Migration stems from disparity in employment opportunities, living standards, developing conditions among areas and regions. Momentum for migration mainly stems from economic reasons. However, some ethnic minorities migrate as traditions of nomadic cultivation.

The goals of migration flows orientation is to re-distribute population and working forces, make the best possible use of resources in order to meet requests of the development.

Priority activities aimed at the above-mentioned goals are as follows:

- a. Implement the comprehensive economic development strategy as the most sustainable instrument to successfully divert migration flows.

- Develop rural areas towards modernisation in line with protection and preservation of good rural traditions. Diversify economic industries that produce high profits. Investment priority should be given to development of poor areas where a lot of people migrate. Speed up the urbanisation process in rural areas as springboard for acceleration of economic structure transition and labour division in rural areas. Encourage the rural people to create jobs for themselves in their hometowns. The State can do this by providing back up concerning infrastructure development, loans for production, business and services activities.

- Appropriately develop urban areas through incentives for development of small and medium sized cities.

- Narrow the gap among regions, rural and urban areas and communities and create sustainable social integration.

- Promote appropriate, moderate utilisation of natural resources on site to well serve socio-economic development of communities in remote areas.

- Set out policies and management measures in line with the development rules and development levels of the country.

b. Renovate and organise the implementation of migration policies: As for each migration kind, local authorities need to proceed with uniform implementation of economic, social, technical and managerial policies and measures in order to develop production, create more jobs and income, develop infrastructure and avoid further worsening social problems and environment in localities having immigrants. On the other hand, improve living and working conditions for migrants, organise for migrants to undertake duties in their new immigration places, ensure legitimate rights about jobs, living conditions, and other interests for migrants in labour markets.

IV. Improve education quality in order to raise intellectual level, professional skills and qualifications and match needs of the country's development

Vietnam's cause of education and training has made considerable progress during the last years. The education and training size continuously expands at all levels to meet ever-increasing study demands of the people. Now, approximately 94% of the population at ages of 15 or more is literate; all provinces, cities in the country have reached national standards on illiteracy eradication and popularisation of primary education. The average schooling duration of the population is 7.3 years; eight million people out of the total working force of 43.8 million people have been trained with technical skills and qualifications, making up 18.3 %.

However, Vietnam's education and training has exposed the following shortcomings:

- The quality of mass education and training at levels is low; short of basic conditions to ensure the quality, the teaching staff is insufficient in quantity, the structure is not in uniform, the quality of teaching staff is poor, teaching methods are obsolete, study and teaching facilities are insufficient.

- Effectiveness and efficiency of education and training is low. The ratio of the trained workforce is small. There has been absence of effective measures in human resources training to strengthen competitive capacity, develop agriculture, and serve the transition of economic structure and labour allocation. Higher education and vocational training have yet to meet labour demands of the society.

- The structure of human resources training in terms of skills and qualifications, training fields and regions is inappropriate. The disparity in education and training development levels among regions in the country has yet to be narrowed.

- Some negative symptoms, discipline and disobedience in education and training have yet to be timely prevented leading to bad consequences.

The responsibilities of education and training sector in the sustainable development strategy is to continuously strive for improvement in the people's intellectual level, create equal opportunities for people to access education and training services, continuously develop capacity of individuals and improve the quality of human resources which are decisive factors for the socio-economic development in the next decade.

Priority activities for the implementation of the above mentioned duties:

1. Reform curricula, content, education and training methods in order to improve the quality of comprehensive education for young generations. Strengthen realistically and practical skills, self-study ability, pay attention to social and humane knowledge, supplement modern scientific and technological achievements in the manner which is suitable for the students' receptive ability, catch up with general education levels of the countries in the same region and in the world.

2. Provide back up for provinces under difficulty in order to reach the target of popularisation of junior high education by the year 2010 through assistance in teaching staff training in order to overcome the shortage of teaching staff in ten provinces under difficulty; supplement of funds for construction of schools and boarding schools, procurement of equipments and teaching facilities.

3. Train the human resources for rural areas in order to equip rural people with basic knowledge and skills concerning relevant industries. Create conditions for farmers to diversify production and business activities to generate more jobs and more income through construction of a vocational training network in rural areas and formulation of vocational training curricula as well provision of vocational teaching staff for rural areas.

4. Form and develop system of human resource training and fostering

for labour export to earn hard currency and create jobs.

5. Firmly develop education for ethnic minorities and regions under difficulty, strive for reduction in education development disparity among regions through such measures as: construction of schools network suitable for areas of ethnic minorities and mountainous areas; consolidation and renovation of pedagogical schools with a view to improving the quality and effectiveness of teachers training especially teachers for mountainous areas or areas of ethnic minorities; implementation of policies with regards to allocating and supporting financial sources which is extracted from the state budget

6. Mobilise the whole society and the whole people to make contribution for education system construction, diversify education and training forms, expand financial sources, exploit resources in the society for the education development.

7. Carry out education on environmental protection and sustainable development in schools. Propagandise and popularise knowledge about sustainable development in order to raise the people's intellectual level and awareness thereof. On that basis, mobilise the whole people to participate in the implementation of sustainable development.

V. Develop healthcare services in terms of quantity and quality, improve working conditions and living environment sanitation

During the last years, people's healthcare and protection have made encouraging improvements. The medical network at grassroots levels has been consolidated and developed. Thus, primary healthcare has been well conducted in many localities including mountainous and remote and island areas. Prevention and struggle against diseases and epidemics has been strongly implemented. Many dangerous epidemics have been brought under control and pushed back such as diarrhoea, plague and malaria. The medical system has been invested and upgraded thus made new progress. Many hi-technologies for disease diagnosis and treatment have been successfully applied and widely popularised. Activities concerning protection of mothers and children as well as family planning has made positive changes. Traditional medical and pharmaceutical systems have been consolidated and developed making positive contribution in treatment of normal diseases and other chronic ones at low costs which are suitable for the poor and the people in rural and mountainous areas.

People's health has been ever improved. Vietnam has acquired the combined health index which is much better than those of other countries at the same income level per head, making considerable contribution to improving our country's human development index.

However, there have existed the following challenges in the healthcare field:

- The market economy has widened the disparity between the poor and the rich meanwhile the state budget allocation for healthcare is limited. So it is very difficult to ensure equality in health care. Although policies on medical insurance, hospital fees and charges for diseases examination and treatment have had first positive impacts, they have exposed some shortcomings.

- When the living standards have been ever improved, demands for healthcare have also increased and become more various. Investment for developing hi-tech application in private, joint-venture and semi-public hospitals and medical stations has been made for the first time, but achieved limited results.

- The current types of diseases have typical features for both developing countries and industrialised ones. Natural disasters and catastrophes are risks that are difficult to predict and once they happen, they often cause great loss and damages to lives and property including those of the healthcare sector.

- The healthcare sector is facing the facts that professional and managerial staff has yet to meet requests of this sector development in the new setting. Equipments and facilities in medical stations are insufficient and obsolete. The volume of medicine produced by domestic pharmaceutical enterprises has been not enough to meet the consumption needs, high medicine prices due to absence of the state's medicine management mechanism has led to poor quality and ineffectiveness of healthcare and protection.

The targets of the strategy for healthcare and protection in the period 2001-2010 are: constantly reduce diseases, constantly improve people's health, all people entitled to primary healthcare services; create conditions for all people to access and use higher quality healthcare services. All people can live safe in the community, clean environment; well developed in physical and spiritual regards. Reduce ratio of the diseased, improve physical strength, lengthen life expectancy and develop races.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Meet people's basic needs on healthcare

- Consolidate and strengthen medical system towards diversification of service forms and socialisation of participative forces in which state owned medical stations keeping the leading role. Establish the comprehensive healthcare system that focuses on provision of basic and primary healthcare services. The State takes responsibility for ever increasing budget provision

for the medical system development to meet the above mentioned needs with priority given to the policy objectives, the poor and the group under high risks; investment priority given to medicine production bases.

- Improve and upgrade material infrastructure and working conditions for medical stations of communes and precincts and train community healthcare staff and medical technicians so that they can implement activities related to diseases treatment and healthcare.

- Further invest in medical systems at provincial and district levels.

- Diversify ownership forms of diseases examination and treatment stations including state owned, private and semi-public and foreign invested forms, medical stations for each sector.

- Gradually develop hospitals into centres that provide services for disease prevention, healthcare, and functions recovery to increase integration ability towards effective and efficient utilisation of medical resources and medical services.

- Promote combination between healthcare and family planning, at the same time improve the quality of family planning and reproductive health services.

- Develop and popularise medical technologies suitable for rural areas in order to meet basic needs of the rural people in diseases treatment and healthcare.

- Supply basic healthcare services, consider them as an important foundation. Rely on a three level medical network for diseases prevention and treatment. Promote activities related to disease prevention and treatment, death with emerging health matters and functions recovery.

- Strengthen, develop grassroots level medical system from district hospitals to commune medical stations, from village medical stations to at home medical services, develop family medical staff, train suitable source of medical staff.

- Consolidate and strengthen epidemics inspection activities including epidemics inspection in bordering areas. Encourage the people to participate in prevention and combat of social evils, drugs addiction, prostitution.

2. Develop preventive healthcare, prevent and combat contagious diseases

- Make plans on supervision, collection and treatment of residential waste and medical waste especially toxic substances. The implementation of these plans must be under supervision of agencies in charge of environmental

protection.

- Consolidate and strengthen activities about supervision and prevention of contagious diseases. Consolidate and develop the network of stations and units to supervise such contagious diseases as hemorrhagic fever, Japanese meningitis, malaria and diarrhoea. Develop epidemics supervising methods, ensure effective implementation of preventive measures, and measures concerning epidemics spreading control, epidemics defeating.

- Strengthen prevention and struggle against non-infectious diseases.

- Maintain and strengthen extensive vaccination.

- Strengthen prevention and struggle against HIV/AIDS.

- Prevent and struggle against intestinal contagious and bacteria and insect via transmitted diseases.

- Control environmental dangers related to contagious diseases.

- Strengthen preventive health and improve the public health.

3. Alleviate detrimental impacts caused by environment pollution on the public health of the people

- Speed up formulation and promulgation of policies, normative documents on environment sanitation, food hygiene and safety; build up and issue national and sectoral environment standards; consolidate, strengthen the existing supervision system and build overall planning on the national environment observation network.

- Set up combined mechanism between healthcare and environmental protection.

- Work out national orientations on environmental health.

- Manage and supervise labour environment, prevent and struggle against occupational diseases and profession related diseases that are caused by toxic factors and working environment pollution.

4. Protect social groups under high risk

- Enhance pregnancy care, give guidance about diet, Fe supplement to prevent anaemia in women. Good implementation of mothers' healthcare must be combined with education about malnutrition prevention.

- Conduct nutrition education for families. Speed up the socialisation

process in order to mobilise all resources for the implementation of malnutrition prevention among children. Ensure sufficient supply of Vitamin A for children aged from 36 months to six years old particularly subjects under high risks.

- Maintain high vaccination ratio among children for diseases that can be prevented by vaccine.

PART 4

PRIORITY AREAS IN NATURAL RESOURCE UTILISATION, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND POLLUTION CONTROL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Prevention of land deterioration, effective and sustainable utilisation of land resources

Land deterioration is a common trend for large regions in Vietnam especially hilly and mountainous areas, which account for three quarters of the total land coverage. Mainland deterioration forms are erosion, washing out, low land fertility rate and nutrition imbalance, acidification, salinity intrusions, alkalisation, fading out land, dry and drought land, desertification, waterlogged land, inundation, landslide and contaminated land.

More than 50% of the plain land coverage (equivalent to 3.2 million hectares) and over 60% of hilly and mountainous land coverage (equivalent to 11 million hectares) have suffered from land deterioration. In the plain areas, land environment are facing such challenges as flood, inundation, alkalisation, salinity intrusions, erosion, sliding of riverbanks and seashores, land contamination, exhausting exploitation of land fertility for short-term benefits. In mountainous areas, there are many causes leading to land deterioration but mainly due to obsolete farming methods of mountainous ethnic minorities, deforestation and arbitrary forest burning. The land environment deterioration has accompanied with the deterioration of plants and animals systems, deduction in agricultural land area per capita to alarming level.

To prevent land deterioration, effectively and sustainable use land resources, Vietnam has already and is implementing appropriate policies, programmes and projects such as assignment of land and forest for households under contract form, afforestation, forestry and agriculture combination, development of long term trees on sloping land, preservation and sustainable utilisation of waterlogged land, management of river basins and coastal management. Some international activities to combat land deterioration have been carried out, yet at very small scale.

Priority activities for combat of land deterioration, effective and sustainable utilisation of land resources:

1. Legislative and institutional perspective

- Supplement, amend and further perfect policies and laws on land ownership, land use, state management on land. Build up and effectively use the information system on land resources.

- Plan and manage land resources utilisation of all land users.
- Continue to build and promulgate policies and regulations on management of sloping land, river basins, and waterlogged areas.
- Make better integration of national policies and international action plans on combat of land deterioration and sustainable land utilisation.

2. Economic perspective

- Regulate population allocation and migration among regions, areas with a view to reducing population pressure on land resources.
- Set out appropriate measures to ensure food security in mountainous areas, implement settlement and sedentary farming, protect and develop forests, combat land erosion.
- Build up combined programmes to fertilise and rejuvenate agricultural land in populous plain regions.
- Research and apply cycle production system of combined agriculture, forestry and fishery in different ecological areas in order to ensure effective socio-economic development and environmental protection.

3. Technical perspective

- Apply combined technical measures (e.g.: agricultural, biological, chemical, mechanical) and invest in in-depth intensive farming.
- Facilitate organic circulation in soil. Plant perennial trees with high economic and commercial values but little demanding about land digging, implement combined system of agriculture, forestry and animal husbandry in sloping areas.
- Manage basins to protect land and water sources, develop irrigation systems, keep ecological balance and regulate reciprocal impacts between the plain and mountainous regions.
- Regenerate vegetation carpets with afforestation or combination of agriculture and forestry in order to protect land fertility and sustainable use sloping land.

4. Awareness

- Raise public awareness of appropriate and thrifty utilisation of land resources.

- Train and improve the people's knowledge about technologies, technical application, and land management.

- Propagandise and launch mass movements to apply advanced patterns on sustainable utilisation of land resources.

II. Water environment protection and sustainable utilisation of water resources

Vietnam has plentiful source of surface water and underground water. However, the rainfall is unevenly distributed according to seasons and regions in the country, causing flood in rainy seasons and drought in dry season in many places. Geographical locations of mountains create great potential in hydro-electricity, and water storage on the one hand but increased risks of flood and land erosion on the other hand. Underground water resources can be exploited for residential water supply on medium and large sized scale in some regions. As for the international water sources, which Vietnam shares with neighbouring countries, it is necessary to strengthen international co-ordination and co-operation in its utilisation and protection in order to ensure equal and appropriate benefits for all involved parties.

Vietnam has been active in formulation of policies, laws, programmes and projects on protection and utilisation of water sources. But there has still remained the following shortcoming in management of water resources:

- There have not been long-term strategies on management of water resources on national and regional scale. Water resources have not been managed according to basin system

- Provisions on protection, utilisation and management of water resources have been insufficient or fragmentary. Short of suitable management instruments on standards of water quality, limits for underground water utilisation for each regions, areas; duties of financial contribution for natural resources management.

- Investment for irrigation works has still been low resulting in imperfect works. Revenue from irrigation charges has not been enough to cover costs for management, operation and maintenance, which leads to serious degradation in most of irrigation works. Water resources are poorly managed and wastefully used. Since the transition to a market economy, mobilisation of the whole people in construction of irrigation works has been paid little attention. As a consequence, the effectiveness of irrigation works construction and their utilisation is low causing a waste of water resources.

- Little attention has been given to investment for waste treatment technologies.

- Lack of community education programs on appropriate and thrifty utilisation and protection of water resources.

Inadequate management, utilisation and protection have made water sources deteriorate in many places. Water sources are seriously polluted. Dangers for exhaustion of water sources together with uneven distribution in spatial and temporal terms have been threatening water shortage for economic development and residential needs in some regions. Surface water sources have become contaminated due to large amounts of industrial and residential waste released. Underground water sources in some urban areas have had initial pollution signals that are caused by organic pollutants with difficult dissolubility.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Institutional and legal perspective

- Continue to formulate policies, legal documents, provisions and technical procedures on utilisation, protection and management of water sources.

- Strengthen capacity of authoritative agencies at local levels and population communities about management and supervision in water sources utilisation.

- Mobilise wide participation of water beneficiaries in planning, operating and financing process of water infrastructures.

- Build up policies, laws on over-all management of national water sources in order to consider different water needs such as water consumption for residential life, agriculture irrigation, water supply for aquaculture and hydro-power, tourism and entertainment in order to balance these needs with benefits of natural water and criteria for econ-system management.

- Study water needs and long term approaches for water utilisation in order to balance water sources on national and regional scales. Special attention should be given to over-all planning of water supply sources for big and medium sized urban areas and industrial zones.

- Build up national environment standards on underground water, surface water sources such as rivers, lakes, reservoir and other waterlogged areas.

- Improve state management system on water resources. Review water resources management functions of different agencies in order to avoid overlapping, coincidence, at the same time, study to establish a consistent and inter-sectoral organisational structure on water resources management.

- Build up data for management and protection of water resources.

- Strengthen international co-operation in utilisation, management and protection of shared water sources between Vietnam and other neighbouring countries.

2. Economic perspective

- Formulate and implement programmes, projects on combined management of river basins, upstream areas and underground water.

- Expand and upgrade irrigation system at all levels, improve effectiveness of water use and reuse.

- Consider water as a commodity. Build price lists on water service charges on the principle “water users pay” and “polluters pay”.

- Renovate rivers and upgrade irrigation systems, which are now seriously degrading.

- Encourage protection of natural forests and afforestation.

- Integrate the implementation of programmes on prevention and combat of natural disasters into socio-economic development ones taking into account specific conditions of each region.

3. Technical perspective

- Promote application of wastewater treatment technologies, encourage utilisation of clean technologies in production process in order to reduce amount of emission and reuse wastewater.

4. Awareness

- Raise awareness of population communities about appropriate and thrifty utilisation and protection of water resources.

- Encourage population communities to participate in environmental protection activities and water saving.

III. Appropriate exploitation and thrifty and sustainable utilisation of mineral resources

Appropriate exploitation and thrifty and sustainable utilisation of natural resources in general and mineral resources in particular is an indispensable feature of the national sustainable development programme. It should be given special priority. It includes activities related to appropriate exploitation and thrifty and effective utilisation of mineral resources in which economical use thereof takes the main role.

In comparison with many countries in the world and in the same region, Vietnam has important advantages in mineral resources. With sound and sustainable protection, exploitation, utilisation, these resources will be our advantages in the international arena both now and long into the future.

Minerals are non-renewable natural resources. Currently, the whole country has got more than 1000 mines under exploitation. Due to loose management, unplanned and arbitrary exploitation of small mines has caused loss of mineral resources, destroyed land environment, vegetation carpets and caused a lot of environmental incidents such as land sliding and mine collapse. Due to the fact that small mines are widely scattered in different localities, organisation of consistent and uniform management has met with many difficulties, leading to loss of natural resources and more serious environment pollution. In addition to waste of natural resources owing to low collection rate of useful mineral content, adoption of obsolete technologies in mining has also caused loss of forest, land sliding, deposition and contamination of rivers, streams and coastal areas.

Natural resources can be divided into two categories: renewable and non-renewable, in which minerals belonging to the latter. Protection and thrifty and sustainable utilisation of natural resources should pay attention to both categories with appropriate policies and measures applied for each category of natural resources. However, the later deserves more special attention. Exploitation, processing and utilisation of natural resources as well as their consumption is still inadequate and not environmentally friendly, ending in bad impacts on the environment in many regions in the country, threatening the sustainable development, directly affecting the production and daily life of both current and future generations. Thus, protection and sustainable utilisation of natural resources in general and mineral resources in particular is an important target for all development strategies, planning, and projects in Vietnam.

To reach the target of sustainable development, thrifty, effective and efficient utilisation of mineral resources, the following **priority activities** need to be implemented.

1. Institutional and legal perspective

- Use economic and administrative instruments and legal provisions to strictly and more effectively enforce mineral law.
- Perfect the organisation system of mineral resource management at central and local levels.

2. Economic perspective

- Formulate consistent planning on utilisation of mineral resources and environmental protection.

- Organise mineral exploitation procedures in appropriate manner, avoid the state that prior exploitation of easy to extract mines leaving behind the difficult to extract ones, which have bad impacts on supervision, evaluation and planning of mineral exploitation. Restrict and prohibit in near future spontaneous and arbitrary mines exploitation.

- As for mineral resources in the bottom of rivers, zone mining sites, avoid banks sliding and changes of running flows.

- Reinforce investment for recovering, regenerating and improving ecological environment in mining areas.

3. Technical perspective

- Renovate and renew exploiting, winnowing and processing technologies in order to acquire full collection of mineral content and protect environment.

- Apply advanced technologies for ores with low mineral content in order to thoroughly utilise the amount of minerals in mines, at the same time, reduce volume of waste soil and stone, narrow coverage of dumping sites.

- Recollect useful substances from waste ores to clean environment and avoid waste of natural resources.

- Implement compensation and return for exploited natural resources such as: land return, trees plantation, restoration of vegetation carpets and eco-systems, reuse of wastes in mines which have been exploited.

4. Awareness

- Raise public awareness of appropriate and thrifty utilisation and protection of mineral resources.

- Encourage population communities to participate in mineral protection especially for small and widely scattered mines and minerals that are economically sensitive and easily polluting to the environment.

IV. Protection of marine, coastal and island environments and promotion of marine resources

Vietnam has a coastline of over 3,300 km long and a claimed exclusive economic zone of some one million km², which is three times larger than the country's land area. Coastal regions are centres of social and economic activity. They account for nearly 60% of the country's population, about 50% of large cities and most of the major industrial zones.

Vietnam has carried out a number of measures and policies to prevent

degradation of the marine environment. The existing Law on Petroleum and Maritime Law as well as the to-be-promulgated Fishery Law all address the long-term protection of marine resources and marine environmental protection. A number of coastal cities have built and will build waste and wastewater treatment plants. Some integrated coastal management projects have been implemented.

Nevertheless, there remain a lot of obstacles to the protection of marine resources:

- The biggest of which is the lack of capital investment in technical projects and pollution prevention activities.

- The fishery industry is one of the important economic industries in Vietnam, employing nearly nine million people and ranking the third in export revenues. There is great potential for fishery development in Vietnam if the fishery industry is managed and governed towards sustainable development. Aquaculture development has been proved an important direction for hunger eradication and poverty reduction, job creation and income improvement for population. However, presently fishery development still faces numerous constraints in management, rational use of fishery resources and environment, level of technology application, investment capital and production and trading arrangements.

- Coastal areas are heavily hit by natural disasters like storms, floods and erosion.

- Population pressure and the high speed of urbanisation, industrialisation in coastal areas has led to a number of serious consequences to coastal and marine resources. Coastal cities, industrial zones release a significant amount of untreated wastewater and solid waste into rivers and seas, causing water pollution. Particularly, tourist resorts along the coastline are major wastewater and garbage producers responsible for polluting the marine environment. River and seaports and the petroleum industry are also sources of pollution. Environmental accidents (oil spills, shipwrecks, etc.) and natural disasters occur frequently, which contributes much to marine environment's pollution and degradation.

As a result, the marine and onshore ecological system is seriously deteriorated: Biodiversity and tropical marine eco-systems are threatened and degraded; very large areas of mangrove forests is destroyed for shrimp raising, onshore coral reefs exhaustively exploited, incorporating Vietnam into the list of the highest endangered regions in the world. Many valuable and rare animal groups like marine animals, sea turtles, sea birds etc. as well as marine and onshore flora as coral and sea grass coverage have been gradually shrunk, resulting in a lowered quality of living environments. Species diversity and

special gene resources have been damaged or seriously degraded in some areas.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Institutional perspective

- Formulate a strategy for marine economic development, resources and environment management under the principle of sustainability. The strategy includes functional zoning of the sea and coastal areas; integrated management of coastal fishery extraction and rearing; establishing coastal and marine protected areas; planning coastal population and urban development; diversifying economies and improving the life of coastal inhabitants; preventing and reducing the harms of coastal calamities, primarily storms, flooding, bank erosion, tidal waves; capacity building for coastal and marine environment management; and preventing and responding to marine environmental incidents.

- Establish a cross sectoral mechanism for the unified management of sea and coastal areas. The development and management planning mechanisms that mainly focus on each sector's partial interests and barely take into account the aspect of natural resources and environmental protection should be renovated. Sanctions should also be promulgated so as to integrate environmental considerations into sectoral economic development plans. In the short term, the petroleum, transport, fishery, forestry, tourism industries need to have collaborative programmes for equitable extraction and protection of coastal and marine resources.

- Approach the assignment of seawater surface use right to producers within the allowable scope in order to facilitate marine-culture promotion.

- Participate and formulate plans to realise international and regional treaties and action programmes on fishing, using and protecting fishery resources in a sustainable manner as well as protecting marine bio-diversity.

2. Economic perspective

- Promote offshore fishing and properly adjust coastal fishing.

- Progressively develop aquaculture in coastal brackish and brine water in harmony with environment, combining with development of post-harvest technology to rational and economical use of fishery products, securing food safety and increase in foreign exchange from export.

- Develop fishery logistics system, including fishery ports, shipbuilding and repair, fishing gears and nets, supporting services, product preservation, processing and selling. Great attention should be given to telecommunications

and salvage services for fishing fleets.

- Diversify economies for job generation, poverty reduction and improving living standards for coastal communities in order to facilitate coastal and marine environment and resources protection.

3. Environmental perspective

- Establish and efficiently manage marine and coastal protected areas.
- Strongly promote application of national and sectoral environmental standards.
- Strongly promote research and application of technologies for marine and coastal environmental protection and responses to marine environmental accidents (oil spill, shipwreck, salinity intrusion, etc...)

V. Forest protection and development

Forests in Vietnam are typically tropical rainforests, which are abundant in flora and fauna with high biomass and biodiversity values. In the last years of the 20th century, policies and measures for forest protection and afforestation have brought about positive results. Forest coverage has increased from 27% in 1991 to 33.2% in 2000.

Nevertheless, forests in Vietnam still are under great pressures from the following:

- Long wars have destroyed several forest ecological systems.
- Demands for fuel wood and timber for the market added to the huge profits that can be made from illegal logging, have led to arbitrary extraction, disregarding biological principles and has caused losses to forest resources, especially old jungles and watershed forests.
- Nomadic lifestyles, slash and burn practices, and the high competitiveness of agricultural production over forestry have cause forest areas to shrink and forest quality degrade. In coastal regions, the destruction of mangrove forests to make way for shrimp farms has also increased.
- Forest fires are frequent, devastating thousands of hectares every year.
- Logging and timber production technology is backward and barely efficient. On the other hand, non-timber alternative products cannot satisfy the demands of consumers. Therefore, forests continue to be cut down.

Hence, even though forest area increases, it fails to fulfil the requirements

of environmental protection.

The strategic objective is to stabilise forest reserves, including three million hectares of special use forests, six million hectares of protective forests and ten million hectares of production forests.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Institutional perspective

- Strengthen the State management system of equitable use and protection of forest resources, involving active participation of community.

- Continue to foster the assignment of land and forest to households and collective bodies pursuant to the Land Law and Law on Forest Protection and Development.

- Formulate, issue and implement policies that attract investment in forest development and protection.

2. Economic perspective

- Assist people in planting and protecting forests, effectively using the forest land assigned. Encourage life improvement through sustainable community-based use and management of forests. Contracts of forest protection will be signed with each individual, household, and community group to make sure that management and protection work is suitable to protect forests.

- Formulate guidelines on tax exemption/reduction for land use, low-interest loans and credit to assist investment in farms. Provide low-interest credit for building farms. Promulgate buffer and core zones management policies, accompanied by relevant implementation guidelines.

- Facilitate ecological agricultural-forestry development, agro-forestry farms, and enhance services for agricultural expansion.

- Encourage sustainable use of non-timber forest products. Develop industries that produce timber substitution materials.

- Implement demonstration projects of medicinal plants.

3. Technical and technological perspectives

- Study and apply new techniques and technology in forestry.

- Encourage indigenous species planting in all forestation and reforestation activities.

- Apply modern logging and wood production technology that is highly

efficient in the use of forest resources.

- Encourage the use of alternative energy such as coal, gas and small-scale hydropower, etc. Study and assess options for alternative fuels and propose effective use of solar-power, wind energy, natural gas or hydropower.

- Conduct research and introduce technical measures for preventing and controlling forest fire and environmental disasters related to forest loss.

VI. Air pollution reduction in industrial and urban areas

Vietnam is still defined as a less developed country in terms of industry and urban population - especially the metropolitan cities. Air in rural areas is thus basically unpolluted. However, there has been some evidence of alarming levels of air pollution in large urban and industrial areas.

Current air pollutants are dust and emissions from industrial production, transportation, construction activities, and cooking in households. The industries that contribute the most air-pollution are thermal power generation, cement production, brick, tile and lime manufacturing and the metallurgical, chemical and mining industries. Due to their limited production capacity, backward technology and the absence of dust and gas emission treatment facilities; these industries are having a serious environmental impact on the surrounding environment.

Dust pollution in the air within industrial and large urban areas always exceeds the permitted standard 1.5-3 times. The concentration of toxic gases (SO₂, NO₂, CO) in most industrial and urban areas is still below the allowed standards, i.e. there has not been any evidence of toxic air pollution. However, in some factories and at major road junctions of big cities, the above mentioned level is many times higher than the standard. While it is well controlled at a low level in a large number of areas, air pollution within production facilities (working environment pollution) remains a big concern. Recent monitoring results have indicated some signs of acid rain in both the north and the south of the country.

Priority activities:

1. Institutional perspective

- Environmental impact assessments must be undertaken on all socio-economic and development projects in order to prevent possible causes of air pollution. The formulation and appraisal of environmental impact assessment reports must be checked regularly and strictly by competent agencies. If environmental impact assessment is invalid, application for its extension must be done.

- Pollution caused by industrial enterprises, vehicles and domestic activities should be thoroughly evaluated and controlled. Polluting enterprises must be forced to fully address the problem.

2. Economic perspective

- The effectiveness of energy use, power generation of thermal power stations and power facilities should be improved. Highly sulphur-containing coal and crude oil should be replaced by liquidised gases and refined oil.

- Clean sources of energy should be promoted and biogas should be made popular for cooking in rural areas.

- Forest coverage and the plantation of trees on barren hills, within urban areas and along roads should be enhanced.

- Strongly promote development of public transport in medium and large urban areas.

- Apply a "polluters pay" principle to enterprises polluting the air.

3. Science and technology perspectives

- Clean materials and technology are encouraged to use in production establishment.

- Strictly prohibit import of and rapidly reduce the use of obsolete equipment that causes serious pollution.

4. Awareness raising

Awareness on environmental protection in general, and in the working environment in particular, should be raised for entrepreneurs, trade unions and workers.

VII. Solid waste and toxic waste management

In rural areas, waste from agricultural production, forestry activities and traditional fisheries such as tree bark, leaves, paddy rice, seed husks, animal manure, etc. is used mainly as a source of fuel, fertiliser or is dumped. However, the amount of industrial waste such as plastic, metal, persistent chemical residues is increasing rapidly, though not at an alarming rate. Waste problems have started appearing in populated areas.

In industrial and urban areas, the collection and treatment of domestic and industrial solid waste and toxic waste is an urgent issue. The solid waste collection capacity in industrial and urban areas in Vietnam can meet only 20-40

% of the requirements, this rate can be as much as 50-80% in big cities. Unclassified waste is collected and transported to dumping sites. The collection and separation of recycled waste is done mainly by poor rubbish collectors. It is a limited, unorganised and unsystematic way of reusing and recycling solid waste. Waste recycling units are small-scale with backward technology, which contributes much to environmental pollution. A minimal 1.5-5% of waste is made into bio-fertiliser and humus using hygienic technology.

Currently, dumping is the most popular method of waste treatment. However, none of the dumping sites meets technical environmental requirements. Furthermore, these dumping sites are seriously contaminating the soil, water and air environment.

Solid waste from traditional industrial areas is currently collected and treated together with domestic waste. Only 50-60% of the total toxic wastes are collected including hospital waste.

There remain a large number of shortcomings in the current solid waste management as follows:

- There has not been a clear division of responsibilities between different concerned agencies.

- Mechanism for the service is still heavily subsidised.

- Waste gathering is mainly based on manual works. There has not been a wide participation from the communities and private sector in waste collection and management. Although there have been some models in which private businesses invest in the service, impact has been limited in terms of quality and quantity (due to limited funding) which is a long way from meeting the needs of sustainable development.

- There is a lack of appropriate investment in facilities for collection, transportation and separation and a shortage of dumping sites which meet technical and environmental requirements.

- There is also a lack of modern facilities for recycling collected waste and for the treatment of toxic waste.

- Community awareness of environmental problems and health safety concerning waste collection, treatment and management is still low.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Institutional perspective

- Develop and promulgate the pollution control plans at national, sectoral and local levels for active prevention, treatment, recovery and approach to control of environmental pollution due to solid, liquid, air and toxic wastes.

- Promote the sound implementation of all contents of the Strategy for Solid Waste Management in Urban and Industrial Areas in Vietnam until 2020 and the Regulation on Toxic Waste Management that have been approved by the Prime Minister.

- Conduct studies to determine mechanisms of cost recovery relating to collection, treatment and disposal of solid and toxic wastes.

2. Economic perspective

- Construct hygienic landfills in medium and large cities.

- Progressively promote the application of recycling technology for waste reusing. Encourage the waste separation from sources for recycling technology, reducing the area of landfills and costly treatment technology.

- There should be encouragement for joint stock, private companies, and cooperatives to participate more actively in collection and treatment of solid waste.

- Speed up the installation of incinerators in hospitals, especially those that cure contagious diseases.

3. Technological perspective

- Reduce solid waste from the source by encouraging the application of clean and environmentally-friendly technology.

- Make the most of fuel, materials and energy, and reduce natural resource intensive packaging; Change consumption patterns to be more thrifty and lower the generation of waste.

- Encourage waste recycling technology to produce bio-fertilisers and humus for production and reduction of landfills' areas.

4. Awareness raising

- Promote community education and awareness raising programmes; Encourage people to actively participate in waste collection, treatment and management activities in medium and large cities in order to prevent disorderly discharging of waste, particularly toxic waste in streets.

- Initiate public movements on waste separation at home, hygienic living

environment and economical use of natural resources and other products.

VIII. Biodiversity conservation

Vietnam is located in the tropical regions and is among ten countries with the highest bio-diversity in the world. Vietnam's bio-diversity is reflected in the variety of fauna and flora, multiple endemic species and those new to the world, including big animals discovered recently; and the diversity of typical landscapes and ecosystems.

The Government of Vietnam has issued policies on protection of bio-diversity. Since 1958 over 60 legal documents have been issued. On 16 November 1994, the President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam signed to participate in the Convention on Bio-diversity and presently Vietnam is a member of this Convention. Despite all the above-mentioned efforts, bio-diversity in Vietnam is experiencing degradation and shrinkage due to the four following reasons:

- The reduction and disappearance of habitats due to human activities such as deforestation, conversion of land-use methods, massive exploitation of animals; not mentioning calamities such as forest fire, earthquakes, storms, epidemics, etc.

- The over-exploitation of plant resources under pressure of population increases and poverty.

- Environmental pollution that is destroying a number of terrestrial, aquatic as well as underground eco-systems.

- Biological contamination due to the uncontrolled import of exotic species posing negative impacts on indigenous species.

Vietnam's Action Plan for Bio-diversity Protection adopted by the Prime Minister on 22 December 1995 in Decision No.845/TTg becomes a legal guideline for the country's activities concerning biodiversity protection at all levels and sectors from the central to the grassroots.

The long-term objective of the Action Plan is to protect the diversity, variety and characteristics of Vietnam's nature within the framework of sustainable development, including:

- Protect typical and sensitive eco-systems which are in danger of shrinkage or destruction by human economic development activities.

- Protect bio-diversity components that are in danger of over-exploitation or oblivion.

- Promote and identify the utilisation value of all components of bio-diversity based on long-term natural resource development to serve the country's socio-economic objectives.

Priority activities need to be implemented in this area:

1. Improve policies and legislation related to bio-diversity conservation.
2. Regularly review bio-diversity action plans to align it with national socio-economic plans and strategies.
3. Develop regional bio-diversity action plans.
4. Enhance communication and education activities to raise people's awareness of bio-diversity conservation.
5. Consolidate, expand and decentralise management systems for national parks and natural protected areas. Proceed with construction of natural museum systems from central level to grassroots level for scientific research, visiting, studying, propaganda and education on natural development history and bio-diversity conservation.
6. Strongly promote bio-diversity inventory; establish national animal database; formulate, issue and widely disseminate Vietnam's Red Lists to enforce strict conservation policies.
7. Provide training on bio-diversity protection for management officials of forests and natural protected areas, scientists as well as other concerned people.
8. Conduct scientific research and technological applications to sustainable exploitation and use of bio-diversity values, especially in agriculture, forestry, fishery and healthcare. Encourage to study and apply indigenous knowledge in bio-diversity use and conservation.
9. Develop and pilot a number of eco-tourism projects.
10. Encourage communities to establish and realise common regulations on bio-diversity protection in local areas.
11. Enhance international and regional cooperation in bio-diversity protection.

IX. Implement measures for mitigating climate change, limiting its negative impacts, preventing and controlling natural disasters

Global and regional climate change resulting from human activities are having and will continue to have negative impacts on various areas of socio-economic development and environmental protection.

Priority activities:

1. Promote propaganda, dissemination and awareness raising for the community to effectively implement the National Programme to phase out ozone depleting substances and the National Plan to implement the UN Frame Convention on Climate Change.

2. Strengthen and improve capacity of hydrometeorology, especially in the areas of baseline surveys and forecasts for ensuring full and accurate assessment of climate resources and related environmental issues.

3. Improve quality of hydrometeorology forecasts to meet the requirements of socio-economic development and environmental protection, primarily for preventing and controlling natural disasters. Enhance investment in researches for producing long-term forecasts with higher reliability.

PART 5
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION
ARRANGEMENTS

1. Improve the leading role of the Government in the implementation of sustainable development

1. Institutional development

Vietnam has made remarkable achievements in legal and institutional framework development relating to socio-economic development and environmental protection, namely:

- There has been a consistent and effective system of clearly-mandated and well-organised state management agencies from central to local levels for socio-economic development and environmental protection.

- Important legal documents related to development planning and management of economic, social and environmental aspects have been issued.

The system of state environmental management agencies has been established from central to local levels, however, their capacity remains limited, especially at provincial level, which cannot thoroughly address local sustainable development issues. The coordination between state agencies and research institutions has not been very smooth, and information has not been quickly updated to meet the need for the adjustment of policies and plans within the environmental sector itself as well as the need of other socio-economic sectors. There is still a considerable shortage of secondary laws and regulations and other necessary legal documents. More importantly, there is a lack of economic measures and tools to encourage environmental protection as well as to deal with environmental violations in the market economy. Action strategies and plans on environmental protection were developed separately from those of socio-economic development and there was a poor participation from stakeholders, counterparts as well as communities, leading to limited viability.

In order to successfully implement the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam, the following three issues need addressing:

- Complete the system of legal documents on sustainable development by revising and adding to the existing documents towards a completed set of legal documents for sustainable development that are compatible to international related laws. Attention should be paid to the integration of environmental considerations into socio-economic development strategies. Coordination for the formulation and realisation of national and regional plans for sustainable development should be encouraged and facilitated; Encourage scientific research for sustainable development planning.

- Operate a sustainable development mechanism as a linkage of ministries, sectors, and localities, incorporating environmental considerations into socio-economic issues when making development decisions. To do so, the following should be given special attention:

+ Decentralise thoroughly in formulation, implementation and oversight of development plans; highly involve participation of relevant communities.

+ Link strategies and action plans on the environmental development process from the initial stage and throughout the implementation, ensuring the participation of all relevant State functional agencies.

+ Ensure the compulsory application of environmental impact assessment in the whole process of designing, planning, and developing regional, sectoral as well as national socio-economic development plans.

- *Establish a Multi-stakeholder Council to instruct sustainable development* chaired by Minister of Planning and Investment with a standing office located in the Ministry of Planning and Investment in order to assist the Prime Minister in guiding consistent implementation of sustainable development throughout the country with the following main functions and tasks:

+ Organise, instruct and steer the implementation process of the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam. Review the situation and annually report the implementation results to the Prime Minister.

+ Coordinate cross-sectoral and cross-regional activities of development planning. Carry out highly cross-sectoral and cross-regional big programmes and projects. Facilitate relevant ministries, localities, enterprises and organisations to develop sustainable development strategic orientations, programmes and projects.

+ Provide guidance for propaganda, education, and awareness raising of sustainable development for all the society. Steer human resource training for implementing sustainable development strategy.

+ Establish and operate a system providing information on sustainable development.

+ Propose new initiatives and seek for resources for realising such initiatives to advance sustainable development.

- Establish steering councils for sustainable development at the sectoral and local levels.

2. Improve capacity for environmental management

The state management system on the environment is newly established,

and in comparison with socio-economic counterparts, it can barely meet the requirements of sustainable development cause.

Improve the capacity of state management agencies at all levels in terms of environmental management is one of the focal tasks in order to realise sustainable development in Vietnam, including the following activities:

- Improve technical and professional skills for environmental management officials at all levels.
- Establish an environmental management unit in ministries to implement the sectoral environmental management function.
- Enhance capacity for environmental research and monitoring agencies.
- Promote national, sectoral and local environmental information systems.
- Develop an economic accounting system, applying economic instruments to foster sustainable development.

3. Apply financial tools for sustainable development

- The state budget for environmental protection mainly comes from investment development sources for enhancing environmental protection activities, implementing urgent baseline surveys and environmental master plans. Economic sources will be allocated for regular activities on environmental protection and environmental science research, programmes and projects on environmental improvement as well as education and communication for public awareness raising.

- Involve financial organisations in provision of financial assistance for sustainable development.

- Encourage enterprises to invest in environmental protection and preservation of landscapes, historical sites, ecosystem as well as bio-diversity in and around their workplace; settle all kinds of wastewater and waste gas fees, fees for solid waste collection and treatment as well as other relevant fees and levies; provide financial support to environmental funds at all levels.

- Encourage organisations and individuals to contribute finance to the enforcement of regulations on environmental protection, pollution prevention and recovery, and creation of a green and clean environment in their workplace and at home.

- Involve foreign direct investment (FDI) projects in investment in environmentally-sound industries.

- Mobilise official development assistance (ODA) for projects in environmental protection, poverty reduction, job generation, and construction of infrastructure in rural, remote and mountainous areas as well as ethnic minority groups.

4. Establish sustainable development evaluation indicator system

Progressively foster the development and application of a system of sustainable development evaluation indicators. The system should be established and put into function soon, and it will be adjusted, amended and improved during application.

System of indicators and evaluation norms for technology and quality of industrial goods, import and export materials must be consistent. Monitoring and evaluation mechanism must be suitable for avoiding troubles for enterprises.

5. Public education and awareness raising of sustainable development

One of the most important tasks is to improve education and awareness of sustainable development for all people, communities, enterprises, organisations and state agencies at all levels. Attentions should be given to the following four target groups:

- Advisors to policy planning play a decisive role in proposing development strategies, programmes and projects. Their knowledge on sustainable development poses direct and strong impacts on the sustainable development perspective of the country and each locality.

- Experts working in information survey, assessment, and provision; and elaboration of plans and projects of natural resources and environmental protection and development. They should be intensively trained and updated with advanced knowledge in order to contribute actively to proposal for sustainable development solutions.

- Entrepreneurs whose activities directly affect economic development as well as living and working environments.

- Young generation, the master of the society in the future. They should be early and regularly equipped with deep and comprehensive knowledge on sustainable development.

6. Formulate sectoral and local sustainable development strategic orientations

Each region and locality (provinces and cities directly under the Centre) should formulate its own Agenda 21 to confirm its activities towards sustainable development in reference to major directions given in the Socio-economic Development Strategy and the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.

II. Involve the whole society's participation in sustainable development

1. Overall advocacy

Sustainable development is the cause of all people. The process of development policy formulation and implementation should mobilise the broad participation of all people according to principle “people know, people discuss, people do and people examine”.

A system of mass organisation is well organised and experienced in unifying and mobilising the public. Each social group is organised in such a way that the work of every individual is done for the common sake of the whole group and of a certain movement.

There are many ways to mobilise public's wide participation in the realisation of sustainable development.

(a) Further renovate the legal and institutional framework to promote people's initiatives and mastership in social and community management. Enhance the community participation in environmental impact assessment by institutionalising the participatory role of people and taking measures for enforcement, primarily in large projects that have great impacts on the community. Political-social and social-occupational organisations as well as mass societies play a very important role in ensuring sustainability in socio-economic development and environmental protection in their local areas. It is necessary to strengthen the responsibility and capacity of mass organisations for bringing into full play their role in an efficient manner.

(b) Organise communication, education, and improvement of public awareness of sustainable development via mass organisations and community activities. Types of community education on natural resources and environmental protection via formulation of village regulations, competitions and movement activities should be kept promoting.

(c) Launch activity programmes by each social group in each locality and nationwide with the contents of sustainable development. It is necessary for social and mass organisations to strongly promote mass movements and community activities for job generation, business experience sharing, poverty reduction, environmental sanitation, protection of local natural resources and environment, and improvement of public awareness of sustainable development issues. Establish local groups responsible for environmental protection and natural resource use self-management and oversight.

(d) Authorities at all levels should cooperate, support and facilitate in all aspects in such a way that political-social and social-occupational organisations, mass societies and communities can realise the objectives of sustainable

development movement.

(e) Establish demonstration models on sustainable communities, natural resource and environmental protection self-management system etc. and replicate those models.

2. Activities by main social groups for accelerating sustainable development

a. Women

Despite several achievements made in advancing the role of women, Vietnam needs to do more in order to achieve real gender equity, raise living and working conditions, improve women's political and social status, and completely eliminate any violations of women's basic rights. Women are still more disadvantaged than men in some aspects such as learning opportunities, professional training and development, employment, and housework burden

Priority activities need to be implemented to encourage women's contribution to sustainable development cause:

- Promote education, training and communication campaign for women's higher awareness in all aspects of professional qualifications and social economics management capacity.

- Support women in business development, employment, and poverty reduction by:

- + Mobilising more funds and establishing credit funds for poor women.

- + Enhancing agricultural, forestry extension and off-farm training for women.

- + Organising cooperatives for women to create jobs and peer support in business.

- + Setting up models of appropriate consumption, natural resource savings, and pollution reduction.

- Care for women and children's health and improve living conditions in localities by:

- + Effectively implementing family planning policies

- + Developing movements to reduce children's malnutrition, to improve family diet and to protect mothers' health.

- + Launching campaigns on well nourished kids and happy families.

- + Extending movements for better supply and use of clean water and sanitation works in households

- + Leading propaganda on prevention and fight against social evils such as prostitution and drug addiction.

- Participate in formulating and overseeing the enforcement of legislation and policies on gender equity.

- Participate in the protection and development of local natural resources:

- + Launching campaigns on saving materials, fuels, and using clean energy in domestic activities.

- + Launching the movement on women go ahead in economical and rational expenditures in order to establish rational consumption pattern nationwide.

- + Setting up models of natural resource self-management and environmental self-protection by women in communities.

b. Teenagers and young people

Vietnam's teenagers and young people are not only the generation that holds the future, but also the pioneering force of the country's modernisation, making a great contribution to the realisation of sustainable development.

However, they are still confronting following challenges:

- Due to a rapid increase in population and a less-developed economic setting, suitable job opportunities are quite limited.

- Due to low living standards, most households can hardly save capital. As a result, young adults can hardly obtain the necessary resources for economic development at the start of their independent life.

- Due to geographical isolation, ethnicity and thus language barriers, economic hardship, and social status, the young in far-off and remote areas suffer from worse conditions such as learning opportunities, information access and exchange, comprehensive human development, etc.

Schools and local authorities are institutions that directly manage, instruct and organise the youth and teenagers to take part in social activities. Moreover, mass organisations working for the sake of teenagers and young men have attracted a great number of the youth and teenagers by popular activities for the good of the communities. They help the poor, take care of security within residences, volunteer to do disaster relief work and promote a healthy lifestyle and protect the environment, etc. These activities have brought about great

effects to social development economically and spiritually, contributing to the education of virtuous morals and values, preservation of traditional lifestyle.

The government, youth and pioneer organisations should support physically and spiritually the following activities:

- Mobilising the young and teenagers to involve more actively and effectively in the development of policies, especially those directly dealing with their benefits of future generations.

- Developing more favourable policies to encourage the young to work in remote areas where knowledge and young labour is needed.

- Create more opportunities for education, vocational training and fully-developed skills by issuing open policies and investing more in education.

- Assisting the young in setting up their own business with preferential land tenure, tax reduction, tax exemption, soft loans, technology and management instruction, market research, etc.

- Learning experiences and providing financial support to multiplying the movement of the young intellectual pioneers' working in poor and particularly difficult areas.

- Multiplying models of successful businesses and projects led by young men, particularly such models that benefit both the entrepreneurs and promote forest protection, the cultivation of new land and natural resource and biological systems conservation, etc.

c. Farmers

People working in agriculture account for more than 70% of the whole population and labour force. The social and political organisation representing farmers is the Vietnam Farmers' Association with branches in all localities, conducting propaganda and launching action movements in rural areas.

Compared to the requirements of modernisation, industrialisation and sustainable development, farmers in the country are still limited in many aspects:

- Although farmers' educational and vocational level has been much improved, it is still poor in general. Awareness of sustainable development and economics as well as technical knowledge for implementing sustainable development is still low.

- Farmers' production level is generally low in terms of scope, farming technique, productivity, quality of farm products and business efficiency. There have been many obstacles to production, processing and trading. Prices fluctuate, and production is not stable. Natural disasters regularly happen in many rural areas, causing serious consequences to the economy and people's lives.

- Farmers' lives are still subject to a lot of difficulties. Poor households are mainly concentrated in rural areas.

In general, in almost all rural communities, development is not yet sustainable. To overcome the above-mentioned shortcomings and bring into full play the role of farmers and the Vietnam Farmers' Association in the cause of renovation so as to actively contribute to the sustainable development of the country, the followings should be addressed:

+ Improve people's intellectual level and vocational training. Provide technical, economic and social knowledge to farmers.

+ Successfully implement policies on crop land, comprehensive agricultural development, farm product trading, production and social insurance.

+ Fully utilise regional economic and social advantages. Disadvantaged regions should be supported to ensure that the development level and people's living standards in urban and rural areas are not too different, coming to narrowing the gap between the two areas.

+ Allocate population in a planned way, develop vocations, create employment, eradicate hunger and reduce poverty, improve living standards and build up a new style of rural areas.

+ Encourage farmers to actively take part in agriculture environmental protection by strictly complying with regulations on pesticide application, preserving aquaculture environment, and applying clean technology in farming production.

+ Develop, generalise and widely replicate successful models of household economy in accordance with the ecosystems of garden-pond-stable (VAC) and garden-pond-stable-forest (VACR).

+ Launch movements for promoting sustainable development and for rural communities to assist each other to develop the economy and eradicate hunger and reduce poverty; bring into full play democratic spirit, actively develop cultural and social activities, efficiently self-manage natural resources and environmental protection.

d. Workers and Trade Unions

At the current stage of development, the country's industry still remains modest with the working class accounting for a small proportion in total population and labour force. Despite being small in number, this class holds a large quantity of physical infrastructure and the most state-of-art equipment in society, annually producing a large amount of industrial products making up 40% of gross social products and securing 60% of the state budget.

In the light of sustainable development, workers are those who have to

bear the impacts of fast economic growth i.e. changing jobs, moving houses and having to adapt to new requirements of the process. On the other hand, they also benefit from the industrialisation process through higher salaries, better employment and improved living standards. Other negative impacts of the process include polluted living and working conditions, housing problems, congested transportation and inappropriate public utilities. Furthermore, workers are the direct exploiters of natural resources, and hence, the polluters. They play a key role in either the protection or contamination of the environment. However, they are only indirectly responsible for the matter, as it is the owners of the business who decides on investment options, production systems and technology.

Workers are represented by the Trade Unions which organise for them to take part in activities for a sustainable development. Vietnam Federation of Trade Unions is the main force that has decisive role in forming important developing policies of the country. Trade Unions, at various levels, directly participate in development decisions, especially those relating to jobs, payment and working conditions at local and enterprise level.

With such roles and functions, workers and Trade Unions should carry out the following activities to enhance sustainable development:

- Give their comments and opinions on national development policies. Actively take part in discussion and preparation of State's strategies and plans on socio-economic development and environmental protection.

- Improve workers' awareness of sustainable development. Workers and Trade Unions play a leading role in the application of clean technology and protection of labour environment sanitation.

- Ensure that the employers observe strictly regulations on environment sanitation and fight against violations.

- Employers should strictly comply with regulations on labour contracts as well as labour safety and sanitation, ensuring health for workers and the whole business community, reducing accidents, preventing occupational diseases and working environment incidents.

e. Businessmen

National economic development and growth relies a lot on the development of businesses. By applying cleaner production technology, economical use of natural resources, fuels and materials in the production process, producing environmentally friendly products, enterprises can greatly contribute to sustainable development.

The organisation that represents and attracts businessman to participate in political, social and environmental protection activities is the Association of Businessmen. The Association of Businessmen is responsible for instructing

businesses to strictly enforce laws and regulations, including the Law on Environmental Protection.

Priority activities for advancing towards sustainable development need to be undertaken by businessmen are as follows:

- Apply clean and environmentally-sound production technology.
- Increase enterprises' responsibility in economical use of natural resources and environmental protection, taking initiatives in preventing and controlling environmental pollution.
- Contribute resources to equitable use and management of natural resources and environmental protection, supporting socio-economic development towards sustainable development in the area where the enterprise located and in the whole society.

g. Ethnic minorities groups

Vietnam has 54 fraternal races. The Communist Party and the Government of Vietnam consistently pursues policies designed to consolidate solidarity and mutual assistance, to focus on hunger eradication and poverty reduction, eliminate backwardness and disparity in all aspects among regions and races, and build up an equitable, democratic and civilised society.

Due to historical reasons, ethnic groups have not been developing equally. Living standards in many ethnic minority areas are very low and backward and this is a great challenge to development. Although mountainous land has been more actively used for economic purposes, the efficiency of land use is not high. 50% of the 25 million ha of gradient land are of poor quality with thin surface soil, substantial erosion and now it is experiencing serious degradation. The high population growth rate in mountainous area can be attributed to two factors, migration and a high reproductive rate. Population pressure on land is very great, clearly reflected by the widespread deforestation and degradation of forest quality. There is a very big gap in economic development, living standards and capacity for meeting essential needs by human beings. Gaps between people who live in mountainous areas and people who live on the plains exist in public services such as health, education and culture. In the North West and North East mountainous areas and the Central Highlands, the hunger and poverty rate is the highest nationwide, while human development index (HDI) is the lowest in the country. With the present market mechanisms, this gap has an upward tendency, threatening to cause social conflicts in the future.

To reach sustainable development in mountainous and ethnic minority areas, priority should be given to the following activities:

- Increase investment in infrastructure (roads, irrigation, hydro-power, national power grid, schools, clinics, etc) based on the principle of ensuring the

balance between regions and races to create balanced development and reduce disparity between regions and races.

- Link investment in production to that in product processing and trading through the expansion of services, processing industries, information network, oriented and organised purchase for encouraging production and improve income of producers.

- Emphasise investment in education and human resource training as well talent development in combination with rational employment and allocation to meet the demand for trained human resources and create a contingent of trained ethnic minority staffs.

- Combine administrative reform with the integration and effectiveness raising of national target programmes and those supporting mountainous areas and ethnic minorities.

- Preserve and develop cultures of all races, building up a new cultural living style.

- Place emphasis on mobilising ethnic minorities to take part in protecting forests and afforestation. Realise the policy on providing food and subsidies to those who are assigned to protect forests.

h. Intellectuals and scientists

Scientific and technological development is the leading national policy, the cornerstone and driving force for advancing the country's industrialisation and modernisation in the 21st century. Up to the present, Vietnam has had considerable science and technology potential. The sector is capable of providing scientific arguments for the country's development policy formulation and quickly absorbing knowledge of transferred science and technology transferred. This enables intellectuals and scientists to gradually advance towards dealing with many scientific and technological problems arising from the country's practical requirements.

However, there are still a lot of limitations in science and technology activities, failing to meet the requirements of socio-economic development in the country's industrialisation and modernisation stage. They have not yet played the role of driving force and cornerstone for development, which are reflected in the following aspects:

- Scientific and technological capacity remains low compared with international and regional standards, failing to satisfy the development requirements.

- Economic management mechanisms have not yet linked scientific and technological activities to socio-economic ones for creating a real driving force and abundant resources for science and technology development.

- Scientific and technological management mechanism has been slow and needs basic renovation. There is not yet the link between economic management mechanisms and scientific and technological management mechanisms. Economic interests and worthy respects to scientists and technologists who have great contributions have not yet been ensured.

- The science and technology market has not yet been developed

The following priority activities should be undertaken so that science and technology will become a real basis and driving force of development:

- Further promote propaganda to improve the awareness of the role of science and technology in the country's industrialisation and modernisation for all people, authorities at all levels and sectors. Formulate and resolutely implement action programs on science and technology by all authorities at all levels and sectors accordingly.

- More strongly renovate the economic management mechanism to establish move towards facilitating, encouraging and forcing enterprises of all economic sectors to invest in research to change technology, renovating and improving their products' competitiveness in domestic and foreign markets.

- Thoroughly realise the Law on Science and Technology. Conduct a review of scientific and technological activities over the past few years and replicate best cases and practices that have been proven in practice.

- Cope with problems and obstacles for expanding, developing the scientific and technological market. This is considered as the most urgent, basic and long-term task to bring into full play the role of driving force of science and technology.

- In addition to taking measures for training scientific and technological human resources, emphasis and high priority are given to research. Also, policies should be implemented that utilise and treat preferentially science and technology talent, thus contributing to undertaking socio-economic tasks.

- Strengthen scientific and technological infrastructure construction to rapidly integrate into the world and region, especially infrastructure on scientific and technological information, research equipment for focal national laboratories.

III. International cooperation for sustainable development

Vietnam has actively participated in and continues to take part in international activities for sustainable development. The purposes of international cooperation for sustainable development are:

- Progressively promote international cooperation in environmental development and protection. Fully realise international conventions on sustainable development in which Vietnam is a signatory member.

- Mobilise international supports in terms of technique, technology and finance in poverty reduction towards sustainable development.

Priority activities need to be implemented:

1. Continue to implement renovation policies; involve individuals and international organisations in implementation the Strategic Orientation for Sustainable Development in Vietnam.

2. Enhance international cooperation in the UN Committees on sustainable development.

3. Promote international cooperation in international economic incorporation, education and training, science and technology transfer, especially clean and non-polluting technologies. The experiences and advanced technologies which have been successfully applied in Vietnam should also be disseminated by international communities, especially the developing countries.

4. Identify an effective mechanism for international cooperation through dialogues and communication in order to maintain the existing external support and seek new assistance for Vietnam to participate efficiently in international efforts in global environmental protection. This will help to make up for the economic losses which the country has to bear in performing its duties in global environmental protection.

5. Participate actively in global environmental protection activities. Linkages and cooperation with international organisations should be expanded, particularly in control of green-house gases; using substitutes for ozone depleting substances; mitigation of pollution due to chemicals and toxic wastes and control trans-boundary transportation of wastes; protection of marine environment and biodiversity.

6. Promote exchange of information about sustainable development and disseminate international positive experiences in the field.

7. Strengthen cooperation in sustainable development and environmental protection with Asia-Pacific and South East Asia countries. Special attention should be given to cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong river basin.

8. Actively take part in international monitoring and research systems to collect environment and sustainable development data.

9. Mobilise international assistance in environmental data research, collection and processing, implementing projects on natural disaster prevention and natural resource and environmental protection.

10. Closely cooperate with international donors and organisations to

enable more efficient use of ODA for sustainable development.

11. Emphasis is placed on encouraging overseas Vietnamese community, especially enterprises and intellectuals to contribute to promoting and supporting sustainable development in Vietnam.

**PP PRIME MINISTER
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER**

Nguyen Tan Dung (signed)

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