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SPEECH BY H.E. MR. CAO DUC PHAT
MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT
HEAD OF VIET NAM'S DELEGATION
AT THE JOINT HIGH-LEVEL SEGMENT OF THE
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
(9 December 2010, Cancun - Mexico)

Madam President,

Distinguished Heads of Delegations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Viet Nam, although not a major greenhouse gas emitter, is among the few countries most heavily affected by climate change. Devastating storms and floods occur with increasing intensity and frequency with the most recent, just two months ago, resulting in severe losses of lives and property. Viet Nam's extensive deltas and low-lying coastline provide food for 86 million people and produce one-fifth of global rice exports. As such, climate change, especially sea-level rise, directly impacts the lives of millions of Vietnamese and the food security of Viet Nam and the world.

Viet Nam's commitment to combat climate change is evident with the adoption and implementation of the National Target Programme to Respond to Climate Change. In addition, Viet Nam has taken voluntary actions in both adaptation and mitigation including a National Programme on Energy Efficiency and Conservation, the development and use of renewable energy, a Five Million Hectares Reforestation Programme, and a UN-REDD Viet Nam Programme. These efforts will underpin Vietnam's sustainable development, the realisation of our Millenium Development Goals, and ultimately our drive towards a low-carbon economy.

Nevertheless it is obvious that a single country cannot fight against climate change alone. To achieve a powerful synergy of global efforts, several guiding principles shared by many Parties should be upheld:

- First, the UNFCCC and its Kyoto Protocol with amendments and supplements applicable to major emitters must continue to serve as the basic legal framework and legal instrument for the international community to combat climate change. The principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities must be respected.
- Second, developed country Parties should make more ambitious commitments and set specific and binding greenhouse gas emission reduction targets in the mid-term and long-term in a legally binding

agreement to limit the average global temperature rise to less than 2 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial level.

- Third, developing countries should be encouraged to develop and implement nationally appropriate mitigation actions on a voluntary basis, in accordance with their different national circumstances. It is imperative and urgent that developed country Parties provide developing countries with scaled-up, adequate and predictable, new and additional funding, as well as technology transfer and capacity building in accordance with the Bali Action Plan.
- Fourth, an agreement on REDD-plus mechanisms and its effective implementation is critical for emission mitigation by countries, and offers major opportunities for enhancing biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources, as well as supporting the livelihood of local communities in a sustainable manner.

Madam President,

As the current ASEAN Chair in 2010, Viet Nam has worked constructively with other ASEAN countries in the adoption of the Leaders' Statement on Joint Response to Climate Change at the 16th ASEAN Summit in Ha Noi in April 2010 and the preparation of the Plan of Action for its implementation. We believe that ASEAN, a key global food producer and exporter, should receive prioritised financial and technical support in responding to climate change.

At this Conference, I would like to reaffirm our commitments in previous ASEAN documents to actively contribute towards a successful outcome of COP16/CMP6 and to work constructively together to ensure that its outcome will incorporate long-term cooperative actions to address climate change in accordance with principles and provisions of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Bali Road Map and the Bali Action Plan in particular on mitigation, adaptation, finance, technology transfer, capacity building and taking into account the specific national circumstances of Parties and a future agreement of the Second Commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Viet Nam highly appreciates Mexico's hospitality and congratulates this successful presidency. To reach a successful and balanced outcome, much remains to be done through a party-driven, transparent, inclusive and open process. Viet Nam will continue to work closely with you, Madam President, and the international community for the sustainable development and prosperity of all countries.

I thank you for your attention./.