

**CLOSING SPEECH BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT HA CONG TUAN
AT THE HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE OF THE HANOI CONFERENCE
ON ILLEGAL WILDLIFE TRADE**

(November 17th, 2016)

-Ministers and Heads of Delegations and International, Intergovernmental Organizations

- Distinguished delegates.

First of all, on behalf of Vietnam Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, I would like to express my sincere thank to the Ministers, leaders of intergovernmental and international organizations as well as the delegates attending the conference today. After a day of hard work, the Ha Noi Conference on illegal wildlife trade have obtained results in accordance with its objectives. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to summarize the main results that we have achieved as follows:

Ladies and gentlemen,

After taking specific actions based on the agreements reached from two previous conferences, there have been positive changes in combating the illegal wildlife poaching and trading activities. However, these activities remain the principle threats leading to the extinction of species, toppling ecological balance, adversely affecting the overall development, providing illegal profits to international criminal organizations, undermining the legal system, abetting corruption; and leading to the outbreak of new diseases.

Faced with this situation, this conference has focused on comprehensive coordination mechanisms among components of the wildlife trade chain, including measures for conservation of wildlife populations and habitats, sustainable management of legal trade, preventing illegal poaching, and calling for the participation of stakeholders. Especially, this conference has highlighted the development of sustainable livelihoods, strengthening of international cooperation in law enforcement, and reducing of demand for products from wild species illegally trafficked.

The Hanoi conference has once again confirmed the determination of the community of nations and international organizations to join together to fight the illegal wildlife trade towards sustainable development in order to ensure the harmonization of economic, social interests, security, and environmental protection. With the continuation of the results from the 17th Conference of the Parties of CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) held in South Africa from September 24th, 2016 to October 5th, 2016, the main theme of the Hanoi Conference was about the overall approach, focusing on developing sustainable livelihoods for communities living in the nature reserves and enhancing international cooperation and coordination. The conference has obtained a statement as a basis for actions for countries in particular and for the international community in general.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Once again, I would like to restate the overall message of this conference, that is, not just individual measures but concerted actions on every aspect should be taken to tackle all elements of the illegal wildlife trade chain from range, transit and destination countries. International cooperation plays a vital role in illegal wildlife trade prevention, along with practical enforcement actions taken by the Governments in the bilateral, multilateral and regional cooperation mechanism in order to enhance the law enforcement, reduce the demand for wildlife products, and foster the sustainable economic development.

Together with representatives of the countries attending this conference, Vietnam commits and calls for support from the international community and practical support for the implementation of long-term measures to prevent illegal wildlife trade, moving forward from the commitments of the London Conference and the Kasane Conference. As a result, I call upon the international community to take immediate action to end this problem. I welcome the actions of the Governments in implementing their obligations and commitments in the international conventions, including CITES. I welcome the financial support from the national budget and private enterprises to finance the activities against illegal wildlife trade.

I strongly believe that, in the spirit of solidarity, friendship and mutual support, the commitments of this conference would be successfully implemented

and we would strive to eliminate the illegal wildlife trade market and foster the sustainable development on a global scale.

Finally, I would like to announce the closing of the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade. I wish you all good health and would like to express my sincere thanks for your support for Vietnam and our people through this conference.

Thank you very much!
