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The post-2015 development agenda

# Vietnam stakeholder perspectives on a water goal and its implementation



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## 1 BACKGROUND

Under framework of GWP's programme of water in the post-2015 development agenda, with the financial support and technical instructions from GWP, Vietnam Water Partnership (VNWP) in cooperation with Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of Vietnam (MONRE) has conducted the Country Consultation Workshop (CCW) on water in the post-2015 development agenda – phase II.

The CCW was held in 17th May 2012 in Do Son town, Hai Phong city, 100 km from Hanoi capital of Vietnam.

The CCW's Agenda is in Annex 1.

CCW were attended by 51 participants who came from and representative for Government's agencies: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA); Ministry of Industry and Trade (MOIT), Ministry of Construction (MOC), Ministry of Health (MOH), Vietnam Union of Science and Technology Associations (VUSTA), Professional Associations such as The Vietnam Water Resources Association (VWRA); Vietnam Irrigation and Drainage (VINCID), Vietnam Large Dams Association (VNCOLD), NGOs centres, individual Scientists and media: Vietnam Television (VTV), Voice of Vietnam (VOV), Peoples ' Security Newspaper. The WWF, UNICEP, UNDP were invited but not sent their representatives to attend CCW as conflicting time.

List of Participants is in Annex 2.

The Consultation workshop has more than 20 comments directly contributed at the Consultation Meeting and 54 comments contributed for the Consultation through questionnaires delivered at the Meeting.

The comments and recommendations for the Consultation from participants are summarized in the following chapters of the Report

## 2 COMMENTS ON RECOMMENDED SD GOAL AND TARGETS FOR WATER:

All Participants of the Consultation Meeting (the Consultation) agreed that water is most important resource to ensure for sustainable social and economic development and food and energy security and social security of in over the World in general and in Vietnam in particular and they agreed that water for people, economic development and environment is facing with increasing challenges and treats. These challenges and threats are including the quantity and quality degradations. These challenges and treats are recognized more serious in developing countries than in developed countries. This will treat the fulfilment of countries the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. All the participants agreed with the necessity to have the post-2015 development agenda for water and sustainable development in the each nation and in the global in general.

The Consultation supports the global policy dialogue to ensure water is not neglected in the future development agenda. Some comments emphasised that the water not only the resources but water is vital role and essential for people's life and our Earth. All participants support the messages: The Future We Want: "water is at the core of sustainable development" "Water is at the heart of adaptation to climate change".

Regarding to the SC Goal and Targets for Water, If in the World, billions lack access to the most basic water supply and sanitation services, in Vietnam, as it is not attention enough given to the drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, even this is one of key points in the UN development goals. Especially with the waste water control. So far 80% of people living in rural are not accessible to clean water, 10% of waste water in urban areas and near 0% in rural areas are treated<sup>1</sup>.

Vietnam is also challenging with the increasing demand, pollution, risks, and competition for water resources. This situation is treating the health and wellbeing as well as to the integrity of ecosystems. The diseases and health of people are treated, especially children.

### **2.1 Consideration of the approach for target setting (national or global level) and any country specific issues related to the targets and elements to the targets to enable countries to set its level of ambition according to local circumstances.**

Vietnam is not rich in water: Vietnam has annual water volume of 830-840 billion cubic meter, 63% of which volume come from the neighbour countries (China, Lao PDR, Thailand, Myanmar, and Cambodia), it means that Vietnam heavily depends on the water from outside countries.

Water of Vietnam is facing big challenges due to increasing demand of increasing population and other users, mainly agriculture, industry, environment etc. the conflicts of water uses among sectors (hydropower and other uses: agriculture, domestic and environment etc.).

Water in Vietnam is also facing with the challenges of poor management that are main reason for water quality degradation due to pollution from differences sources including non-treated waste domestics, agricultural activities (crop production, aquaculture), industries, mining; hydropower etc.

Conflict in water uses between Vietnam and upstream countries is increasing due to unsustainable water development (hydropower development, inter-basin diversion, uncontrolled pollution discharge etc.) and poor cooperation in water management of upstream countries of the transboundary river systems, mainly Mekong river basin (shared with China, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Thailand and Cambodia) and Red river basin (shared with China) is increasing rapidly.

Vietnam so far there is no a report addressing the water demands for the sustainable development goals in post 2015. It is necessary to have projections for water demands post 2015 for: water drinking supply (the rapidly increasing population), for economic demands (agriculture, industry, etc.); for environmental protection. Climate change will also significantly change the water resources in negative direction.

In water supply, Vietnam plans in 2011-2015, 95% of rural areas will be supplied with sanitary water of that 70% water met to standards of Ministry of Health, 85% householders in rural have sanitary toilets. Vietnam also targets for year of 2025, 100% urban residents will access to clean water, 70-80% waste water will be treated before discharged into natural sources and about 20-30% of treated water will be reused.

However, in order to achieve these targets, Vietnam have to make a lots efforts. One of the important efforts is have to enhance the public awareness, especially for young generations to encourage them to reduce or reuse the natural resources. Beside that the legal framework relating to standards for waste water treatment, waste water discharge, solids waste etc. should be clearly and strongly addressed and regulated.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.thesaigontimes.vn/102987/80-dan-nong-thon-khong-tiep-can-duoc-nuoc-sach.html>

It is proposed that the “quantitated” factors for water development should be included into policy, legal framework and also in specific action plans of water resources protection and management, forestry protection and reforestation etc.

The roles of civil society have to be addressed in legal frameworks for water development and management process at all levels of administrative system (central and local).

## **2.2 Sub-sections discussing the Goal and each of the water targets.**

The Consultation agrees that country’s actions for water development of Vietnam should be more focusing on the some specific areas:

- Most priority should be given for drinking water supply.
- The issues of water pollution by industry and urban areas should be settled
- Agriculture sector is biggest user of water, so the application of scientific measures and modern technologies for irrigation to save water is given high priority in policy of water development of country after 2015.
- Finance for water development should be secured.
- Targets for 2025: 100% of people are supplied with safe drinking water, 100% people in rural area accessed the sanitation and hygiene should be focused for “finishing”.

## **3 KEY IMPLICATIONS AND MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION IDENTIFIED FOR ACHIEVING THE GOAL AND TARGETS OVER THE PERIOD 2015-30**

Sub-section on each implication: capacity, costs, institutions, infrastructure, monitoring and any others identified by the meeting. This should highlight the viability of having targets in terms of the resources available to meet them in the specified timeframe.

Vietnam is now setting up its target for water development after 2015 up to 2030, including the specific targets:

### **3.1 Legal framework:**

To complete the under law systems and improve the enforcement of implementation of water resources management and development of country; to complete the national water resources auditing and thematic mapping for water resources.

To introduce and apply the database and information systems of country’s water resources. 100% of major river basins will be installed the automatic and online monitoring systems and. 100% of major reservoirs on the rivers will be operated by cascade regulation mechanism; monitoring the discharge to maintain minimum flow (environment flow) of 70% reservoirs of country.

To ensure in control of pollution, degradation situation in almost river systems. Recovery of rivers that are in serious conditions of degradation. To complete the establishment of corridor protection of the important water sources.

To review and update the National Strategy of water resources toward 2020 and vision to 2050.

In March 2013, Vietnam has ratified and officially join the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Non-navigational Uses of International Watercourses 1997 (1997 UNWC). With that the

necessary conditions for effective use of mechanisms solve the problem transnational water resources in accordance with the provisions of the 1997 UNWC established; that also help Vietnam in actively participating in regional forums, and international forums in the framework of the UN in solving the problems of transboundary water resources in particular, water resources generally

### 3.2 Institutions:

It is proposed to establish General Department of Water Resources Management (now Department of Water Resources Management in MONRE) belong to Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), River basin organization; 3 Sub-Department of Water Resources Management in three parts (located in 3 regions: North, Central and South of Vietnam) (2015 ÷ 2016)

To strengthen the organizational apparatus of state management of water resources at all levels to meet the requirements of the management of water resources; to complete all mechanisms coordinate the management of water resources, river basins management associated with regional territorial management, river basin, geographical commune is the basic unit to perform protection of water resources;

To expand and improve the efficiency of cooperation with the countries sharing water resources with Vietnam and other appropriate partners to protect , exploit and use reasonable equity, flow regulator, preventing cooperation adverse transboundary water resources;

To strengthening of negotiations , resolve problems arising in solving the problems of exploitation and use , water conservation transnational ; advocacy , mainstreaming management and sustainable use of water resources in the framework of regional cooperation ( APEC , ASEM , ASEAN ) and the Mekong sub-region.

### 3.3 Finance:

To implement the financial policy in water sector, including to establish and implement the mechanism and policy to mobilize and attract the financial sources in and out state budget and actively campaigning to mobilize resources, the support of international organizations, ODA priorities for the conservation, management and sustainable use of water resources

To mobilize the participation of all economic sectors, scientific organizations, political - social - professional, non-governmental organizations and local communities in the management and protection of water resources and use water saving and efficiency;

### 3.4 Capacity

To propaganda and educate, raising awareness on the management, protection and exploitation of water resources;

To develop and implement the communication programs to raise awareness of the whole stakeholders and including communities, civil society in the management and protection of water resources and water use savings and efficiency;

To enhance training, retraining and capacity building programmes for staff, civil servants, and water resources officials

### 3.5 Infrastructure:

To increase investment facilities, equipment and tools to support the agency in charge with water resources; organization river basin.

To actively adapt, respond by structure and non-structure measures to the climates change and sea level rise and these impacts to the water resources and impacts of intensive uses of water of the upstream countries in Mekong and red rives.

### 3.6 Any other issues arising from the meeting related to the Water Goal, Targets and post-2015 development agenda.

Water issues become increasingly important. But the goal of sustainable development after 2015 in global and also Vietnam is unclear. By 2020 the Vietnam has targeted to basically become an industrialization country, the how much water for industries is still question.

The issue of water management must think at its philosophy. With the people's life if water is considered simply as a resource, is a short-sighted mistake. Water should be considered as a most key element of life, water cannot be equated with resources. No water no exist the life, society. Water should be at a higher level. In Vietnam, as water is not located in right position, so the water resources management in Vietnam is going down.

## 4 CONCLUDING COMMENTS SPECIFIC TO THE COUNTRY.

Some recommendation for improvement of sustainable water development goals of Vietnam post 2015:

- Complete policies, laws and strategies on water resources in order to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the management, protection, exploitation and use of water, saving water resources and effective prevention the result of water damage due to human activities causes
- Actively adapting, responding to the evolution of climate change, sea level rise and water use in upstream countries in the sharing watercourses.
- The planning, inventory, basic inventory, monitoring and supervision of water resources; actively control, prevent and limit the pollution, degradation, depletion of water resources of country.
- Strengthening the legal frameworks and its enforcement on water development and management of national water sources and conducting the institutional revolution and innovation of water sector.
- Strengthening the mechanisms of international cooperation and benefit sharing with the upstream countries sharing the international river systems basing on the principles of international water laws (United Nation Convention on uses of international water course for Non-navigation purposed 1997 that Vietnam has ratified in 2014).
- Strengthening international cooperation in the fields relating to the water development and management (new approaches for sustainable water development managements such as: IWRM on river basins, RBOs, etc.).
- Public awareness improvements for water sustainable water development and management (water saving, green growth, etc.).

#### **NOTE:**

Ministry relating to water management in Vietnam

- MONRE: State water resources management
- MARD: Irrigation and water disaster, flood, drought management and rural water supply.

- MOC: Urban water supply management, flood proofing and drainage of cities.
- MOH: Quality of water for domestic, sanitation and hygiene
- MOIT: Hydropower development

## Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

### NATIONAL CONSULTATION WATER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS OF VIETNAM POST – 2015

Do Son- Hai Phong city, Vietnam. Friday, 17/5/2014

TIME	ACTIVITIES	RESPONSIBILITY
08:00 – 08:30	Registration	<b>All Participants</b>
08:30 – 08:45	Opening statements	<b>Dr. Le Van Minh</b> , Chairman VNWP
08:45 – 09:15	Introduction of Consultation's objectives  <u>Report No.1: <i>A Potential Global Goal for Water Development after 2015</i></u>  - Q&A	<b>Dr. Dao Trong Tu</b>  Standing Member, VNWP  National Expert for Consultation
09:15 – 09:45	<u>Report No. 2: <i>Direction of Water Resources Development and Management in Vietnam 20142020</i></u> .  - Q&A	<b>MSc. Truong Mai Hoa</b>  Deputy Head of Water Resources Planning and Investigation, DWR, MONRE
09:45 - 10:15	Plenary discussion	<b>All Participants</b>  Moderator: <b>Dr. Dao Trong Tu</b>  National Expert for National Consultation
10:15 - 10:30	Coffee break	
10:30 – 11:00	<u>Report No.3: <i>Discussions on Water Resources Development and National Strategy for Water Resources toward Year 2020 of Vietnam.</i></u>  - Q&A	<b>Ass. Prof. Dr. Vu Van Tuan</b> ,  Former Deputy Director General of IMHEM  Water resources and climate change expert
11:00 – 12:00	Plenary discussion	<b>All Participants</b>  Moderator: <b>Dr. Dao Trong Tu</b>  National Expert for National Consultation
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch	

13:30 - 14:00	Report No.4: <b><i>GWP and IWRM approach</i></b>  - Q&A	<b>Ass. Prof. Dr, Ha Luong Thuan</b>  Standing Member of VNWP  Director of IWDP
14:00 14:30	Plenary discussion	<b>All Participants</b>  Moderator: <b>Dr. Dao Trong Tu</b>  National Expert for National Consultation
14:30- 15:00	<u>Report No. 5: <b><i>Case study: Water Resources Management on River Basin: Lesson of Srepok River Basin Council (RBO)</i></b></u>  - Q&A	<b>MSc. Pham Tan Ha</b>  Water Institutional expert
15:00- 15:15	Coffee break	
15:15 – 16:30	Plenary discussion (continues)	<b>All Participants</b>  Moderator: Dr. Dao Trong Tu  National Expert for National Consultation
16:30 – 17:00	Summary of Discussions and getting Participants' agreement.	<b>Dr. Dao Trong Tu</b>  National Expert for National Consultation
17:00 – 17:15	Concluding remarks	<b>Mr. Le Huu Thuan</b>  Deputy Director General of Department of Water Resources Management, (DWRM), MONRE

## Annex 2 : List of Participants

Full Name	Organisation	Position
Dr. Le Van Minh	VNWP	Chairman
Dr. Dao Trong Tu	Executive Board VNWP	Standing Member National Expert of Consultation
Dr. Ha Luong Thuan	Executive Board VNWP	Standing Member
MSc. Nguyen Thi Nguyet	Executive Board VNWP	Standing Member
Mr. Le Huu Thuan	Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM), MONRE	Deputy Director
MSc. Truong Mai Hoa	Head of Water Resources Planning and Data Management Section, Department of Water Resources Management (DWRM), MONRE	Deputy Head
Ms. Le Thị Hieu	Department of Meteorology, Hydrology and Climate Change (DMHCC), MONRE	Official
Dr. Bui Du Duong	National Centre for Water Resources Planning and Investigation (NCWRPI), MONRE	Deputy Director
MSc. Luong Huu Dung	Vietnam Institute for Meteorology, Hydrology and Environment (IMHEN), MONRE	Deputy Head
Dr. Nguyen Duc Minh	MOIT	Expert
MSc. Vu Thanh Ha	International Cooperation Department (ICD), MARD	Head
MSc. Ha Thanh Lan	Training and International Cooperation - Institute for Water Resources Planning (IWRP), MARD	Deputy Head
MSc. Dang Van Viet Hung	Planner, IWRP	Planning engineer
MSc. Tran Thi Nhung	Water resources modeling expert, IWRP	Modeling
MSc. Bach Huy Hoang	Viet Nam Academy for Water Resources (VWRA),MARD	Head
MSc. Trinh Ngoc Thang	Viet Nam Academy for Water Resources (VWRA),MARD	Researcher
Mr. Dinh Quang Minh	The Department of International Organizations, MOFA	Official
Mr. Nguyen Hai Ngoc	Legal and Protocol Department, MOFA	Head
Mr. Phi Quoc Viet	Legal and Protocol Department , MOFA	Official
Ms. Truong Thi Huyen		Staff
Mr. Le Xuan Hoa	CEWAREC	Water expert
Dr. Tran Viet Hung	Vice President of VUSTA	Vice president
Ms. Nguyen Thị Thanh Huyen	Department for International Cooperation, VUSTA	Official
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS	PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS
Mr. Le Duc Nam	VINCID	Vice Chairman
Mr. Vu Duc Suu	VINCID	Planning Specialist
Mr. Hoang Hien	VNWRA	Water expert
Mr. Tran Hoang	VNWRA	Water expert
Mr. Hoang Xuan Hong	VNCOLD	Water expert
Dr. Truong Quang Can	VNCOLD	Hydrologist
Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Ly	CECR	Director

## Vietnam stakeholder perspectives on a water goal and its implementation

Full Name	Organisation	Position
Ms. Phung Minh Nguyet	CECR	Officer
Mr. Dang Ngoc Vinh	CEWAREC	Deputy Director
Mr. Vu Hong Loan	CEWAREC	Water expert
Mr. Nguyen Ba Thanh	CWCP	Water expert
Mr. Phan Thanh Toan	CWCP	Chief of Office
Ms. Nguyen Vi Linh	WARECOD	Head
Ms. Nguyen Thi Hien	WARECOD	Staff
CENTRE OF SUPPORT FOR IWRM (CIWAREM)	CENTRE OF SUPPORT FOR IWRM (CIWAREM)	CENTRE OF SUPPORT FOR IWRM (CIWAREM)
Mr. Nguyen Nhan Quang	CIWAREM	Director Mekong Specialist
Ms. Do Hong Phan	CIWAREM	Head of Scientific Board Senior water expert
MSc. Do Manh Hung	IWDP	Deputy Director
Mr. Do Nhu Hong	Water Resources Specialist	
Mr. Vu Van Quy	Water Resources Specialist	
Prof. Dr. Vu Van Tuan	Water Resources Specialist	Senior water expert
Mr. Nguyen Ty Nien	Water Resources Specialist	Senior water expert
MSc.. Pham Tan Ha	Water Resources Specialist	
Mr. Do Duc Phuong	Water Resources Specialist	
Mr. Pham Tuan Minh	Water Resources Specialist	
Mr. Nguyen Bao Quoc	Board of Science and Education, Vietnam Television (VTV2)	Reporter
Mr. Tran Ba Duy	Voice of Vietnam (VOV2)	Reporter
Mr. Nguyen Hong Thai	People's Security Magazine	Deputy General Editor
Mr. Ha Quang	Water Resources Journal, VNWRA	Deputy Chief Editor

