

**CLOSING STATEMENT BY TRAN HONG HA, MINISTER OF NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT, MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND ENVIRONMENT OF VIET NAM (MONRE)**

(Da Nang, 28 June 2018)

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the past two days, we have been working hard on identifying critical global environmental challenges and have reached important agreements on solutions to the global environmental issues by adopting key documents in this Assembly.

We have shown our strong commitment to working together on global environmental issues through a series of meetings over the last six days.

I am inspired by the enthusiasm and commitment shown by all of us in joint efforts to address pressing problems, particularly those related to emerging issues, such as marine plastic waste, loss of biodiversity and climate change.

Let us work closely to turn the agreements reached in these meetings into actions, **for a more resilient, sustainable and life-affirming planet**, for current and future generations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

To bring about the success of this Assembly and related events, enormous efforts have been made.

I would like to thank you all, the GEF member countries from all over the world, the GEF agencies, the CSO network, private sector, academia and community representatives, speakers, facilitators and panelists, for your great efforts and valuable contributions to our fruitful discussions and agreements.

Thank you Madam Naoko Ishii for your excellent leadership of the GEF.

Thank you Mr. Atle Hamar, State Secretary for the Ministry of Climate and Environment of Norway and Madam Aida Keita M'bo the Minister of Environment of Mali for your invaluable work as highly effective and supportive vice chairs.

Thank you all the GEF Secretariat staff members, in particular the preparation team led by Mr William Ehlers, for your great efforts and tireless work, joining with us to successfully organize this Assembly.

I also thank colleagues from the Da Nang People's Committee, other line ministries, businesses, academia and local communities for their support in hosting this event.

Last but not least, I thank the media for their hard work during the whole week

to cover all events, contributing significantly to the success of the Assembly.

I wish you all a pleasant time in Viet Nam, and all the best in your lives and careers.

Wishing our environmental protection cause every success, I now declare the assembly closed.