



## Vietnam Coalition for Climate Action

In 2015, the international community came together and agreed that **every country has a critical role** to play in taking ambitious action **to address the climate crisis**. Under the **Paris Agreement**, Vietnam and 197 other parties **committed to keep the global average temperature rise** to well below 2°C, and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase **to 1.5°C**.

Nearly five years on, **the world has not matched its commitments with adequate action**. Not only have global emissions continued to rise, but countries also face increasing vulnerability as unprecedented climate impacts affect economies and societies around the world.

**Vietnam is consistently one of the world's most vulnerable countries to climate change** – in 2017, it was ranked 6 out of about 180 countries<sup>1</sup>. Whether it is sea level rise in the Mekong Delta, flooding on the central coast, or storms and droughts that are longer and more frequent – **the increasing impacts of climate change pose serious threats to Vietnam's economy and society**.

In addition, **Vietnam's emissions are rising**. As an emerging economy, Vietnam's energy requirements are forecast to double by 2035<sup>2</sup> and Vietnam will be one of the most energy intensive nations in the world if it does not meet its 2030 conditional emissions reductions commitment.<sup>3</sup> A key question for the country is how it will address those energy needs while phasing out coal-fired electricity by 2050 in alignment with a 1.5°C trajectory.<sup>4</sup>

**Vietnam is at a critical point** in its history. In order to address the needs of its citizens and its increasing energy demands, Vietnam needs to make a profound shift in how it supplies energy, builds new infrastructure, and provides goods and services in the coming years. This is the time for Vietnam to **invest in the practices and technologies of the future**. This shift will not only allow Vietnam to address the needs of its citizens, but also put **Vietnam at the forefront of the net-zero transition** and reduce the country's vulnerability to **climate change**.

**Many sectors, communities and actors can play a substantial role in this transition**. This includes not only the national government, but also local governments, the private sector, civil society and others working **across economic sectors with high mitigation potential, ranging from energy, to agriculture, to land-use and forests, to waste management**.

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<sup>1</sup> Kreft, Sonke, David Eckstein and Inga Melchior, Germanwatch, 2019. Global Climate Risk Index 2019 - Who Suffers Most From Extreme Weather Events? Weather-related Loss Events in 2017 and 1998 to 2017

<sup>2</sup> MOIT and DEA, Vietnam Energy Outlook Report 2017, 2017

<sup>3</sup> EU, Fossil CO2 emissions of all world countries - 2018 Report, 2018

<sup>4</sup> IPCC, Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, 2018

**Renewable energy offers significant potential to meet the country's growing energy demands.**

Under current planning, Vietnam intends to deploy 40 new coal-fired power plants to help meet this demand, making it **third in the world for new coal power development**<sup>5</sup>. This is at a time when most countries have recognised that **the climate is at a critical inflection point** and that it is **necessary to rapidly shift investments toward renewable energy instead.**

**Renewable energy provides Vietnam with the opportunity to leap-frog to low-carbon technologies.**

The energy sector will already make the largest contribution to Vietnam's emissions reduction targets committed to under the Paris Agreement<sup>6</sup>. **Ramping up renewable energy can pave the way for even more ambitious emissions reductions** in Vietnam's Nationally Determined Contribution, which pledges modest emissions reductions of 8% by 2030, or by 25% with international support (when compared to 2010 levels).<sup>7</sup>

Already, **businesses, communities and local governments are taking advantage of Vietnam's bountiful renewable energy resources** by ramping up solar energy deployment in recent years. **Solar energy will soon be cheaper than coal power**,<sup>8</sup> and also delivers co-benefits for sustainable production, green jobs, and cleaner air. Renewable energy is a key pillar in Vietnam's transition toward an inclusive net-zero economy, and subnational actors are investing in making that transition a reality.

### Founding Declaration

There is still a **monumental gap between national emissions reductions targets and the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal**. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Special Report on 1.5°C found that **the world must reduce its emissions by 45-50% by 2030, and reach net zero emissions by 2050, in order to meet the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal**.<sup>9</sup> Closing this gap through **enhanced climate targets and ramped up climate action is essential to safeguard the future** of Vietnam and the world.

National governments cannot meet the global climate challenge alone. **We, the signatories of the Vietnam Coalition for Climate Action (VCCA), pledge our commitment to ambitious climate action** in Vietnam in order to support the delivery of the goals committed to globally under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

As pioneers from business, academia, sub-national governments, media and civil society organisations, **we understand the critical role that we can play to build a Vietnamese economy that is powered by low-carbon, climate-resilient practices and technologies**, matching our actions with the urgency and scale required to deliver on the Paris Agreement. In fact, **we believe that the wellbeing and prosperity of Vietnam lies in an inclusive net-zero economy that creates new opportunities for sustainable growth and development.**

**VCCA envisions a net-zero economy that ensures the safety, sustainability and prosperity of Vietnam.** VCCA stands for enhancing **win-win partnerships between the national government and non-state actors** to foster the **application, replication and diffusion of climate actions across local**

<sup>5</sup> Boom and Bust, Coal Power Pipeline 2018, 2018

<sup>6</sup> WWF and VSEA, Power Sector Vision: Towards 100% Renewable Electricity by 2050, 2016

<sup>7</sup> Intended Nationally Determined Contribution of Viet Nam, 2015

<sup>8</sup> Solar is forecast to become cheaper to produce than coal power by 2022 under some scenarios. Carbon Tracker (2019), Bloomberg NEF 2018, 2019

<sup>9</sup> IPCC, Global warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels and related global greenhouse gas emission pathways, in the context of strengthening the global response to the threat of climate change, sustainable development, and efforts to eradicate poverty, 2018

**communities, households and business** to support Vietnam's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

**We commit to taking concrete climate action both individually and collaboratively in order to make the Paris Agreement's 1.5 °C temperature goal a reality.** First we will prioritise our efforts on the energy and industry sectors, with a focus on ramping up action in five key action areas:

- Under the **One Million Green Roofs**, applying solar rooftop electricity and other green solutions to one million homes, buildings, offices, and production facilities by 2030.
- Working at the city level through **One Planet Cities** to develop and implement more **ambitious city plans** to mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- Promoting the development of multiple land use models that **integrates agriculture and renewable energy**, bringing mutual benefits to local communities, farmers and investors.
- **Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions of key processing export industries** by working collaboratively with industry associations and businesses.
- Promoting the **co-benefits of renewable energy** and energy services including a just transition for vulnerable groups in Vietnam.

We will also use our leadership and influence to **engage constructively with the public and with the national government** to **accelerate the implementation** of our national climate targets and leverage **domestic opportunities for higher ambition**. This includes through a revised Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and development of Vietnam's Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emissions Development Strategies (LT-LEDS).

**We will also work collaboratively from the local level up to the global level** as part of the global network of domestic coalitions, [Alliances for Climate Action](#).

**We invite leaders from across communities, sectors and disciplines in Vietnam to join the VCCA.** By working together we will multiply our efforts and mobilise the climate action that is needed to **ensure the long-term security, health and prosperity of Vietnam, and Vietnam's contribution to delivering a safe planet for us all.**