

Proposed speaking points

HPG meeting of 28 June 2016

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It is a pleasure for me to be here today, on behalf of the EU Delegation, to say a few words as one of the co-chairs of this important forum.

Health is one of the 2 focal sectors for EU aid programme until the end of 2017.

We utilize, what we call – an integrated approach, in our support to Vietnam's health sector.

- We have our bilateral programme of 114 million EUR, providing both technical and financial support for the implementation of health sector 5 year plan and sector reform priorities.
- We have our multilateral programme, which we join our Luxembourg colleague in financing sector policy dialogue via the WHO country office.
- We also have a special programme, which we target Civil Society Organization (CSOs) supporting their initiatives at community level.

Vietnam became a low middle income country, meaning that the State would need to ensure proper investment in social sectors to meet the needs of Vietnamese population.

In that context, the Ministry of Health already developed a 5-year health sector plan for 2016-2020, with clear definition of the challenges and solutions.

It is obvious to the EU Delegation, and hopefully to all of us as well, that there are a number of issues which the Government cannot deal with alone. I pick up an example of the health financing reform where the lessons learnt from other countries around the World are important.. or the definition of hospital service quality improvement where the international standards and practices are available for Vietnam to absorb.

But we should not neglect as well the difficulties the poor people, ethnic minorities are facing daily at community level, the hard-to-reach area. And we should not forget that the CSOs are working silently but effectively at such level, making changes little by little, for the well being of Vietnamese population.

Having said that, I would like to join Dr. Huong and my co-chair colleagues to open this important meeting today. I hope that we will have fruitful discussion on

- harmonization amongst DPs;
- alignment to sector plan and priorities;
- improvement of grassroots health network to address maternal and child health; malnutrition; aging and non-communicable diseases

Last but not least, you may notice that I mentioned CSOs not INGOs. In my view, support to the health sector would require inclusive approach, meaning that the sector would need harmonized contribution of non-State actors, including CSOs; INGOs; local NGOs; private companies and investors. Of course, coordination of such larger group of development partners would require efforts and time, but it would bring back much better results in the long-run.

Thank you for listening!