

Viet Nam has 3450 rivers and streams with a length of 10 km or more with 13 large rivers. Most of large rivers of Viet Nam are transboundary rivers where Viet Nam is the downstream country. Total annual volume of flow is about 830-840 billion m³ in which more than 60% of water is generated from the outside territory, only 310-320 billion m³ is generated within the territory. If only look at the total annual water of the country, it can be mistaken that Viet Nam is a country with abundant water resources. Actually, Viet Nam is facing several challenges of water sources. Viet Nam is also a country impacted heavily by climate change.

In recent years, the upstream countries that share water with Vietnam in the Mekong and Red River basins have been boosting their water use and exploitation. A wide range of water activities has been executed such as dam construction, water impoundment, hydropower development, interbasin transfers and hydropower operation. Such activities are direct potential risks that can degrade the quality and quantity of water that enters the Vietnam territory and through that threatening Vietnam water security.

The adoption of the SDGs, the Sendai Framework, the COP 21 Paris agreement and the Addis Ababa creates the advantage legal foundation for Viet Nam to develop water policies, initials and programs, negotiate, sign bilateral agreements, multi-lateral agreements with countries have same water source, solve the conflicts, disagreements and other relate issues on transboundary water sources. Especially in the context that Viet Nma depends on the use, exploitation and protection of water resources of upstream countries. This impacts actively on policies of Viet Nam, multilateralisation and diversification of international relations; actively integrate international economy and widening international cooperation in various areas.

Viet Nam sets high priorities on completing the national institutions to promote the participation and resources from enterprises as well as the communities, combining with the State's resources in the field of prevention and control of natural disasters; increase regional, inter-regional and global cooperation to increase the nation's capacity and efforts on responding and mitigating risks of natural disasters.

Viet Nam will complete on time the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions of Viet Nam and submit to the Secretariat of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change which reflects the efforts of each country to response with the climate change.

Viet Nam has implemented several active activities in many aspects to increase their role in the UN and cooperation between Viet Nam and UN's organizations. Viet Nam has promoted their voice in the forums of UN's in the fields of peace, security, development and human right, always protects and adopts principles of the Charter of the United Nations and international laws especially respects for the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity of countries, solves the conflicts peacefully based on international laws, contributes to the common efforts to ensure the peace, security internationally and regionally.

Currently, Vietnam concerns the non-participation of the upstream countries that share water with Vietnam. As long as their absence, the regulations of the UN Watercourses Convention cannot be applied to solve trans-boundary water issues in terms of water exploitation, use and protection between Vietnam and neighboring countries. The regulations of this UN Watercourses Convention are mandatory to member states. In case one country or some riparian countries do not join the Convention then the principles and measures of this Convention can be used as basis to negotiate, to fight and compromise to solve emerged issues to trans-boundary water resources.

Therefore, Vietnam needs to plan and draw its specific map-road to be ready to implement its rights and obligations particularly with respect to principles related to prio-consultation, overcoming obstacles and solving disputes, compensation, and damages under the regulations of the Convention.