

(Translation)

NO. D. 240/2024

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, recalling its Note Verbale No. D. 167/2-4 dated June 18, 2024, and with reference to Note Verbale No. 512-2024 submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations on July 29, 2024, has the honor to reiterate China's position as follows:

China's Nanhai Zhudao (the South China Sea Islands) consist of Dongsha Qundao (the Dongsha Islands), Xisha Qundao (the Xisha Islands), Zhongsha Qundao (the Zhongsha Islands) and Nansha Qundao (the Nansha Islands). China has sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao including Huangyan Dao and their adjacent waters, and enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil thereof. China has historic rights in the South China Sea. China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea have been established in the long course of history. They are consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and have been recognized by the international community, including the Philippines.

The territory of the Philippines is defined by a series of international treaties, including the 1898 Treaty of Peace between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain (the Treaty of Paris), the 1900 Treaty between the United States of America and the Kingdom of Spain for Cession of Outlying Islands of Philippines (the Treaty of Washington), and the 1930 Convention between the United States of America and Great Britain Regarding the Boundary between the Philippine Archipelago and the State of North Borneo. China's Nanhai Zhudao are beyond the limits of the Philippine territory. Starting from the 1970s, the Philippines invaded and illegally occupied by force Mahuan Dao, Feixin Dao, Nanyao Dao, Zhongye Dao, Xiyue Dao, Beizi Dao, Shuanghuang Shazhou, and Siling Jiao of China's Nansha Qundao, falsely designated the above islands and reefs and large areas of their surrounding waters as "Kalayaan Island Group" and illegally included them into the Philippine territory. China is always firmly opposed to it.

The temporary Arbitral Tribunal in the South China Sea arbitration established at the unilateral request of the Philippines violated the principle of state consent. It exercised its jurisdiction ultra vires, and rendered an award in disregard of law. The award is illegal, null and void, and has no binding force. China neither accepts nor recognizes such an award, and will never accept any claim or action based on the award. Under no circumstances shall China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea be affected by the award.

The Submission made by the Philippines concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles in the South China Sea

has seriously infringed on China's territorial sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the South China Sea. In accordance with Article 5(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the Chinese government once again seriously requests the Commission not to examine the Submission made by the Philippines.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations has the honor to request that this Note Verbale be circulated by the Secretary-General of the United Nations to all members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, all States Parties to UNCLOS and all Member States of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

(Seal)

New York, 19 August, 2024

H.E. António Guterres  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
New York