

(Translation)

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and, referring to Note Verbale No.Legal 2024-173 dated December 5, 2024, communicated by the United States Mission to the United Nations in connection with the submission by the Philippines to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf dated June 14, 2024, and recalling its Notes Verbales No.D.167/2024 dated June 18, 2024 and No.D.240/2024 dated August 19, 2024; and referring to Note Verbale No.Legal 2024-174 dated December 5, 2024, communicated by the United States Mission to the United Nations in connection with the submission by Vietnam to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf dated July 17, 2024, and recalling its Notes Verbales No.D.229/2024 dated July 29, 2024 and No.D.272/2024 dated October 14, 2024, has the honor to reiterate China's position as follows:

China has sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao (South China Sea Islands), consisting of Dongsha Qundao (Dongsha Islands), Xisha Qundao (Xisha Islands), Zhongsha Qundao (Zhongsha Islands) and Nansha Qundao (Nansha Islands). China has internal waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone, based on Nanhai Zhudao. China has exclusive economic zone and continental shelf, based on Nanhai Zhudao. China has historic rights in the South China Sea. China's sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao and relevant rights and interests in the South China Sea have been established in the long course of history. They are solidly grounded in history and law, upheld by successive Chinese Governments, and widely recognized by the international community.

China's position has been stated in the *Statement of the Government*

of the People's Republic of China on China's Territorial Sovereignty and Maritime Rights and Interests in the South China Sea and the position paper *China Adheres to the Position of Settling Through Negotiation the Relevant Disputes Between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea* issued in 2016, and the position paper *China Stays Committed to Peace, Stability and Order in the South China Sea* issued in 2022. China firmly opposes the erroneous claims made by the United States and in the relevant study released by the U.S. Department of State, and does not accept the U.S. accusations.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations has the honor to request that this letter be circulated by the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea to all Members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, all States Parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 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 United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea the assurances of its highest consideration

(Seal)

New York, 28 February 2025

Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea
United Nations
New York