

(Translation)

NO. D. 272/2024

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. 229/2024 dated July 29, 2024, and with reference to Note Verbale No. 174/CH-2024 submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on September 18, 2024, has the honor to reiterate China's position as follows:

China has sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao (the South China Sea Islands), including Xisha Qundao (the Xisha Islands) and Nansha Qundao (the Nansha Islands), and the adjacent waters, and enjoys sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the relevant waters as well as the seabed and subsoil thereof. China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests over Nanhai Zhudao and the relevant waters have been established in the long course of history. They are upheld by successive Chinese governments and consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). In the 1950s, Viet Nam sent a diplomatic note to China, officially recognizing and endorsing the aforementioned sovereignty and maritime rights and interests of China.

Since 1970s, in violation of *Estoppel*, Viet Nam has made unlawful

territorial claims over China's Xisha Qundao and Nansha Qundao, and invaded and occupied illegally some islands and reefs of China's Nansha Qundao by sending military troops. These moves by Viet Nam seriously violate the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. China is firmly opposed to these moves, and demands that Viet Nam withdraw all personnel and facilities from the islands and reefs of Nansha Qundao it invaded and occupied.

The Submissions unilaterally presented by Viet Nam concerning the limits of the extended continental shelf in the South China Sea seriously infringe on China's sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction in the South China Sea. Article 5(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf explicitly stipulates that in cases where a land or maritime dispute exists, the Commission shall not consider and qualify a submission made by any of the States concerned in the dispute. The Chinese government once again requests the Commission not to consider the Submissions presented by Viet Nam in 2009 and 2024. China urges Viet Nam to resolve maritime disputes through bilateral consultation and negotiation.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations requests 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, 14 October, 2024

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