

No. 85/CH-2025

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and with regard to the Note Verbale No. D.229/2024 dated 29 July 2024 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as well as with reference to the Notes Verbales D.035/2025 of 28 February 2025 addressed to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs and D.061/2025 dated 08 April 2025 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, has the honour to state the consistent position of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam as follows:

1. Viet Nam has ample historical evidence and legal basis to affirm its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracel) Islands and Truong Sa (Spratly) Islands in accordance with international law. Viet Nam also has the legal basis to affirm its sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction over its maritime zones established in accordance with the relevant provisions of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Convention), including the sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

Viet Nam resolutely rejects China's claims and positions in the abovementioned Notes Verbales, as they seriously violate the sovereignty of Viet Nam over the Hoang Sa Islands and Truong Sa Islands, as well as the sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction of Viet Nam over its maritime zones in the East Sea (South China Sea). Any maritime claim of China based on the "Nanhai Zhudao" and historic rights in the East Sea is incompatible with the Convention, to which Viet Nam and China are States Parties. Viet Nam affirms that, as between Viet Nam and China, the Convention provides the sole legal basis for and defines, in a comprehensive and exhaustive manner, the scope of their respective maritime entitlements in the East Sea, opposes and rejects any maritime claims in the East Sea that exceed the limits provided for in the Convention; these claims are without lawful effect.

The aforementioned consistent position of Viet Nam has been enunciated in various documents circulated at the United Nations, including documents A/68/942 dated 09 July 2014 and A/72/692 dated 30 January 2018, as well as the Notes Verbales 22/HC-2020 dated 30 March 2020 and 174/CH-2024 dated 18 September 2024.

2. As a coastal State in the East Sea, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, Viet Nam has made the Submissions on the outer limits of its continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles in the East Sea, and has delivered the presentations on the scientific, technical, and legal aspects of these Submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (Commission). These actions of Viet Nam are undertaken pursuant to the rights and for the fulfilment of the obligations of Viet Nam under the Convention, particularly Article 76. Viet Nam is of the view that the consideration of and recommendations on the Submissions by the Commission do not affect the resolution of disputes and differences between Viet Nam and China in the East Sea, including the matters related to the sovereignty over the Hoang Sa Islands and Truong Sa Islands. Viet Nam also holds the view that the Convention contains no provision that precludes the Commission from considering and making recommendations on the Submissions of States Parties presented to the Commission on the basis of Article 76. In accordance with international law, particularly the Convention, the delineation of the outer limits of continental shelf extending beyond 200 nautical miles is the right of the coastal State. Thus, Viet Nam continues to solemnly request the Commission consider and make recommendations on the Submissions of Viet Nam.

The Permanent Mission has further the honour to request that this Note Verbale be circulated to all States Parties to the Convention, as well as all Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurance of its highest consideration.

*New York, 12 May 2025*

**His Excellency António Guterres**  
**Secretary-General of the United Nations**  
**New York**