



Statement by H.E. Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations
at the 70th Session of the Sixth Committee of UNGA on Agenda Item 85 “The
rule of law at the national and international levels”
(15 October 2015, New York)

Mr. Chairman,

1. As this is the first time I am taking the floor in the Sixth Committee, allow me to join previous speakers in congratulating you and the members of the bureau on your elections. My delegation and I assure you of our full cooperation and support for the work of the Committee.

2. Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered by the Lao People's Democratic Republic on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

3. We thank the Secretary-General for his report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities, which highlights developments and activities in this field at the national and international levels over the past year. We commend the efforts made by the UN Secretary General, the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group, chaired by the Deputy Secretary-General and supported by the Rule of Law Unit, in promoting and implementing the rule of law.

Mr. Chairman,

4. The rule of law is an important foundation for universal respect for the principles of justice in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and it is relevant to all the

three pillars of the United Nations which have been set out in the UN's Charter, namely, peace and security, development and human rights. Full implementation of the rule of law at national and international levels is crucial for the maintenance of durable peace, peaceful settlement of disputes, effective protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this regard, we would like to emphasize that efforts of the international community in implementing the rule of law must be based on the principles of sovereign equality, respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-interference, non-threat or use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Mr. Chairman,

5. As a member of ASEAN, a rules-based inter-governmental organisation, which is now moving closer to the goal of establishing an ASEAN Community at the end of this year, Viet Nam is working tirelessly with our ASEAN's brothers and sisters to realize a politically cohesive, economically integrated and socially responsible ASEAN Community. This will be an important step toward building a Southeast Asian region of peace, stability and prosperity.

6. In this context, we are deeply concerned about territorial and sovereignty disputes, especially unilateral attempts to change the rule, alter status quo in disputed areas in the South China Sea in defiance of international law, posing threats to peace, security and stability in the region. Viet Nam calls upon all parties concerned to refrain from the threat or use of force and settle all disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea. We emphasize the importance of full and effective implementation of the Declaration of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, as well as early conclusion of a Code of Conduct in the South China Sea.

Mr. Chairman,

7. Viet Nam wishes to reiterate its strong support for the promotion and implementation of the rule of law in accordance with the fundamental principles of the Charter of the

United Nations at national and international levels. Viet Nam supports the central role of the United Nations in advancing the implementation of the rule of law, especially through the multilateral-treaty making process. We are of the view that the multilateral treaties represent not only the codification of international customary norms, but also the progressive development of international law and the rule of law. Thus, Viet Nam commends and will actively engage in in-depth discussion this year sub-topic “*the role of multilateral treaty process in promoting and advancing the rule of law*”.

8. For its part, Viet Nam has recently revised its Constitution and other fundamental laws such as the Civil Code, Law on Organizing Government, Law on Parliament Election etc.... with a view of building a law-governed State of, by and for the people, thus contributing to the cause of national construction and international integration process. In the meantime, Viet Nam is now revising its current Law on Conclusion, Accession to and Implementation of Treaties to enhance the effectiveness of accession and implementation of Treaties to which Viet Nam is a party.

9. In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm Viet Nam’s commitment to working and cooperating closely with the United Nations bodies, member states and relevant actors in international community in ensuring and promoting greater adherence to the rule of law at international and national levels.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.