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**Statement by H.E. Ms. Nguyen Phuong Nga**  
**Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations**  
**at the 71<sup>th</sup> Session of the Sixth Committee of United Nations General Assembly**  
**on Agenda Item 84 - “The rule of law at the national and international levels”**  
(New York, 6 October 2016)

Mr. Chairman,

1. As this is the first time I am taking the floor in the Sixth Committee, I would like to congratulate you and other members of the Bureau on your election, and to assure you of my delegation’s support and cooperation.
2. Viet Nam associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Mr. Chairman,

3. The Committee meets this year when many parts of the world are still suffering from conflicts, tension and confrontation. Imposition, unilateralism, power politics and the threat or use of force hinder efforts to peacefully settle disputes and conflicts. Underestimating the role of the fundamental norms and principles of international law is one of the roots of these problems.
4. It is in this context that the United Nations should continue its role in promoting a system based on the rule of law at the international level, anchored in the UN Charter, and supervised by the corpus of international treaties and international

justice mechanisms developed under its auspices. All disputes must be settled by peaceful means as defined in Article 33 of the Charter, including legal processes.

5. The Asia-Pacific region, home to more than half of the world's population, is a highly dynamic engine of growth with extensive trading with the rest of the world. The region does, however, contain risks of conflicts, including in the South China Sea, which can threaten regional and international peace, security and prosperity. We are seriously concerned with recent complicated developments in the South China Sea, and call upon all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and solve disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law, including the 1982 United Convention on the Law of the Sea, fully respect diplomatic and legal processes, implement the Declaration on the Conduct of parties on the South China Sea (DOC) and expedite the completion of the Code of conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Mr. Chairman,

6. At the national level, Viet Nam continues the progress in judicial reform, improving legal system and ensuring the rule of law. Viet Nam has formulated and improved laws on the organization and operation of political system's institutions, with a view of building a law-governed State. We have also strengthened the legal system to ensure human rights, people's freedom and democracy, as well as civil and economic activities. Viet Nam has just acceded to the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, and is actively preparing for the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the end of this year.

7. I take this opportunity, Mr. Chairman, to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment to working closely with the United Nations, member states and other partners to

ensure and promote greater adherence to the rule of law at international and national levels.

I thank you Mr. Chairman.