



THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIET NAM
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Statement by the Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy,

Permanent Representative of Viet Nam

at the Sixth Committee of the 76th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 85: “The rule of law at national and international levels”

New York, 12 October 2021

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Madam Chair,

As this is the first time I take the floor, I would like to congratulate you on your election as Chair of the Sixth Committee. You can rest assured of my Delegation’s full support.

My Delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the Kingdom of Cambodia on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Islamic Republic of Iran on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

We thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the assistance by the United Nations in relation to the rule of law at the national and international levels during the past twelve months.

The rule of law at national and international levels is critical to the strengthening and development of each nation and the international community at large, the maintenance of international peace and security, the achievement of sustainable development and the promotion and protection of human rights.

As we are building back and better after the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the most vulnerable, eliminating inequalities and inequities within and among States, upholding international law, including complying with international commitments, are some of the key components in our efforts.

In that context, we highly appreciate the instrumental role that the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations play in strengthening international rule of law, that is the respect for international law, and assisting States in their national efforts upon their request.

Madam Chair,

We are convinced that international law must be the foundation of the international system. We all must fully respect the UN Charter, including its purposes and principles. It is our consistent position that all disputes must be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with international law, including under the Charter. The International Court of Justice and other international judicial institutions play a fundamental role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and ensuring respect for the rule of law at the international level.

During Viet Nam's Presidency of the Security Council in January 2020, the Council convened an open debate on Upholding the United Nations Charter in the maintenance of international peace and security. The presidential statement adopted by the Council on this occasion reaffirms its commitment to the Charter and an international order based on international law, which is the

indispensable foundation of a more peaceful, prosperous and just world.

In our region, together with other members of ASEAN, Viet Nam is striving towards building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability and prosperity. The East Sea (also known as the South China Sea) has great importance to the region and the world, as the main maritime navigation and trade connection between the Pacific and Indian oceans. We therefore share the concerns over recent complicated developments in the East Sea that have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region. We call on all parties to fully respect international law, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS). We also call upon all parties concerned to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint, refrain from unilateral acts which may complicate or escalate tensions at sea, settle disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law including the UN Charter and UNCLOS, fully respect diplomatic and legal processes and fully comply with UNCLOS in determining maritime claims. We have been working together to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and are making progress towards early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct (COC) that is to be in line with international law, including UNCLOS.

In conclusion, *Madam Chair*, we support the Secretary-General proposal for the subtopic “Promoting a people-centred rule of law at the national and international levels as the foundation of our common agenda”.

I thank you./