



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

**STATEMENT**

**by H.E. Ambassador Dang Hoang Giang,  
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam**

**at the Sixth Committee of the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the General Assembly  
Agenda item 84: “The rule of law at national and international levels”**

*New York, 07 October 2022*

*Please check against delivery*

*Mr. Chair,*

**1.** 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).

**2.** The Committee meets this year when the world is faced with challenges of unprecedented magnitude, from climate change to food and energy insecurity. Conflicts and confrontation are still raging, if not more so in many parts of our world. One of the main reasons of this situation is the fact that international law has not been fully observed. Such worrying development however can not diminish our belief and resolve in international law as well as the need to redouble efforts in promoting an international system based on the rule of law at international and national levels.

**3.** In our view, such an international system must first and foremost be anchored in the fundamental principles of international law and the United Nations Charter, including respect for sovereignty, sovereign equality and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in internal affairs, and non-threat or use of force. All disputes must be resolved by peaceful means in accordance

with international law. We would like to emphasize the fundamental role of the international judicial and arbitral mechanisms, including the International Court of Justice, . Further recourse to and upholding decisions by such mechanisms will help promote friendly relations among nations, international peace and security, sustainable development and the development of international law.

4. In this vein, the United Nations system should and continue to play a central role. We therefore welcome the work of relevant UN bodies, including the International Law Commission, UNCITRAL and other multilateral settings in building rules and norms related to a number of emerging issues, including cybersecurity, biodiversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction and pandemics. We share the view that without the rule of law, the implementation of the 2030 Agenda would be unachievable and the rule of law at both international and national levels must be closely linked to the Sustainable Development Goals. Viet Nam supports the proposal of the Secretary-General for the sub-topic “Using technology to advance access to justice for all”.

*Mr. Chair,*

5. Regional efforts aimed at adhering to and promoting the rule of law is equally important. The Asia-Pacific region, including South East Asia, is a strongly dynamic engine of growth with extensive trading with the rest of the world. ASEAN members are striving to build South East Asia into a region of peace, stability and prosperity which commits to shared principles, values and norms enshrined in the ASEAN Charter and other important ASEAN documents. In this regard, we remain concerned over recent complicated developments in the East Sea (also known as the South China Sea), which undermine peace, security and stability in the region. With a view to ensuring peace and stability in the region and protecting the maritime order based on the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), we call

upon all parties concerned to perform their UNCLOS obligations in good faith, enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint, and settle disputes by peaceful means in accordance with the Convention, with full respect for diplomatic and legal processes. Viet Nam is committed to implementing the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and working towards the completion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct (COC) consistent with international law, particularly UNCLOS.

6. In this regard, we join the international community to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the adoption of UNCLOS which has been recognized as “the constitution for the oceans”. UNCLOS sets out the legal framework within which all activities in the oceans and seas must be carried out. As the UN General Assembly has repeatedly emphasized, the universal and unified character of the Convention needs to be protected and its integrity needs to be maintained. As one of the founders of Group of Friends of UNCLOS, Viet Nam and nearly 120 other members are seeking to improve the coherent understanding of and adherence to UNCLOS, as well as to promote its application in maritime domain. The implementation of UNCLOS by all States reflects how the rule of law contribute to the international peace and prosperity, and affirm the need to further promote the rule of law in other areas of global concerns.

*Mr. Chair,*

7. At the national level, Viet Nam continues the strive for further judicial reform, strengthening legal system and ensuring the rule of law. We have formulated and improved laws on the organization and operation of political institutions, with a view to building the state that rules by law. In the past year, we adopted several new Laws to strengthen the legal framework on environmental protection, intellectual property and anti-money laundering, as

well as control and respond to COVID-19. Viet Nam is a strong proponent of international law and is committed to promoting further efforts toward this end.

**8.** In conclusion, let me take this opportunity, Mr. Chair, to reaffirm Viet Nam's commitment to working closely with the United Nations, member states and other partners to promote and ensure stronger adherence to the rule of law at international and national levels.

I thank you./.