



**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 79th Session of the General Assembly
*Agenda item 84: “The rule of law at national and international levels”***

New York, 18 October 2024

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Mr. Chair,

1. Promoting and upholding the rule of law at every level requires a robust, fair and inclusive normative framework, along with a genuine interpretation and application of these norms in accordance with due process. This responsibility should be borne by all Member States and is the key for rebuilding trust, reinforcing commitments, solidarity and multilateralism.

In this vein, my Delegation welcomes the proposal of the Secretary-General for this year sub-topic and aligns itself with the joint statements of ASEAN and the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. We would like to further emphasize the following points in our national capacity:

First, Viet Nam strongly advocates for the respect of international law and the UN Charter. We commend the recent efforts in promoting the rule of law within the organization and in strengthening international legal frameworks in response to the emerging global challenges. These include the finalization of the Convention against Cybercrime, and the negotiation for the Convention on International Tax Cooperation, and the ongoing work of the International Law Commission. These outcomes underscore our commitment to finding collaborative solutions to tackle complex, transnational issues and signify the importance of multilateralism in fostering an international system based on international law.

In this connection, Viet Nam has proposed to host the signing ceremony of the Convention against Cybercrime as a way to contribute meaningfully to the global efforts in combating crimes in the cyber domain. We look forward to your support for this important proposal.

As we commemorate the 30th anniversary of UNCLOS's entry into force, Viet Nam affirms the importance of protecting the universality, unity and integrity of the Convention. As a founding member of the Group of Friends of UNCLOS, Viet Nam actively advocates for greater understanding and compliance with the Convention in global maritime governance. The implementation of UNCLOS by all nations demonstrates how the rule of law maintains good order across all maritime domains and emphasizes the need to extend this principle to address other pressing global issues.

Second, Viet Nam firmly upholds our principled position that all disputes must be resolved by peaceful means in full compliance with international law.

In this connection, we express our concerns about the recent developments in the East Sea (also known as the South China Sea). All relevant parties must honor their obligations under UNCLOS in good faith, comply with the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), exercise restraint, and resolve disputes by peaceful means, in line with the Convention and with full respect for diplomatic and legal process. Viet Nam remains fully committed to implementing the DOC and working towards the completion of an effective, substantive Code of Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (COC) in accordance with international law, particularly UNCLOS.

Third, the regional frameworks play an essential role in enhancing the rule of law and the observance of global norms, thereby contributing to peace, stability and prosperity in our region. Together with other ASEAN members, Viet Nam is striving toward a robust and resilient ASEAN community based on the principles, values, and norms outlined in the 2017 Charter and core ASEAN instruments.

Mr. Chair,

3. Viet Nam has made significant strides in improving national legislation and judicial institutions, with a view to establishing a State firmly grounded in the rule of law. Over the past year, several important laws have

been enacted, including the Land Law, the Electronic Transactions Law, and the Medical Examination and Treatment Law. These developments further promote good governance and strengthen a legal system that is responsive to the needs of its citizens.

Our commitment is also reflected through our proactive engagement in building new UN legal frameworks and our full participation in the advisory procedures at the ICJ and ITLOS on State obligations in relation to climate change, as well as conclusion of numerous bilateral treaties.

4. We advocate for full, fair and equal participation at all levels of the international legal system, creating opportunities for developing countries with limited resources to actively engage in international legal processes. This is crucial to ensure that international law reflects the diverse perspectives of all nations. We emphasize the significance of equal geographical representation, inclusivity, and gender equality in multilateral mechanisms and international judicial bodies.

Guided by this approach and the commitment to upholding the rule of law, Viet Nam has decided to nominate Dr. Lan-Anh Nguyen, a female candidate, to the ITLOS for the first time. We call on member States and UN agencies to enhance capacity-building programs that empower women from all regions, particularly those from developing countries, providing them with opportunities to make significant contribution in the field of international law.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm our readiness to engage in meaningful exchanges and share best practices on this important topic.

I thank you./.