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The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to Note Verbale No. HA 59/12 dated 12 December 2019 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Malaysia to the United Nations concerning the Partial Submission made by Malaysia to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has the honour to state the following position of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam.

Viet Nam notes that according to Article 76(10) and Annex II of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea to which both Viet Nam and Malaysia are States Parties, the actions of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

Viet Nam recalls the Joint Submission by Viet Nam and Malaysia of 06 May 2009 concerning the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured in the southern part of the East Sea (South China Sea) and its Partial Submission of 07 May 2009 concerning the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from its baseline from which the breadth of its territorial sea is measured in the northern part of the East Sea. Viet Nam reserves its rights to submit information on the limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from its baselines from which the breadth of its territorial sea is measured in other areas in the East Sea.

On this occasion, Viet Nam reiterates its consistent position that Viet Nam has ample historical evidence and legal basis to affirm its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracel) Islands and the Truong Sa (Spratly) Islands in accordance with international law. Viet Nam also has sovereignty, sovereign rights and jurisdiction over its maritime zones established in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. This position of Viet Nam has been enunciated in various documents circulated at the United Nations and submitted to relevant international bodies.

The Permanent Mission has further the honour to request that this Note Verbale be circulated to all States Parties to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as all Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 10 April 2020

His Excellency Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York