

(Translation)

CML/1/2021

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with regard to the Note Verbale SC/21/002 dated 19 January 2021 addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations by the Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations, has the honor to state China's position as follows:

I. Being a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), China treats UNCLOS with a rigorous and responsible attitude. The drawing of territorial sea baselines by China on relevant islands and reefs in the South China Sea conforms to UNCLOS and general international law.

II. China has sovereignty over Nansha Qundao, including Meiji Jiao, and their adjacent waters and airspace. China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea are established in the long course of history and have been upheld by successive Chinese Governments and are consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and UNCLOS. The awards in the South China Sea arbitration are illegal, and null and void. China neither accepts nor recognizes the awards. This position is firm and clear.

III. China always respects the freedom of navigation and overflight enjoyed by all countries in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, but is firmly opposed to any country infringing on China's sovereignty and undermining China's security in the name of "freedom of navigation".

IV. China firmly opposes the contents of the aforementioned Note of Japan and urges the Japanese side to fully respect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights

and interests in the South China Sea, and to respect the joint efforts made by China and ASEAN countries to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations has the honor to request the Secretary-General of the United Nations to circulate this Note Verbale to all States Parties to UNCLOS and all Members of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China 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, 28 January 2021

H. E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York