



**PHÁI ĐOÀN THƯỜNG TRỰC  
CỘNG HÒA XÃ HỘI CHỦ NGHĨA VIỆT NAM  
TẠI LIÊN HỢP QUỐC**

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

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**Statement by H.E. Mr. Dang Dinh Quy,  
Permanent Representative of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the United  
Nations, at the 73rd session of the 6th Committee of the  
United Nations General Assembly  
on Agenda Item 84 “The rule of law at the national and international levels.”**

*New York, 9 October 2018*

*Mr. Chair,*

1. My delegation associates itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representatives of 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. We welcome the Secretary General’s Report on strengthening and coordinating United Nations rule of law activities as contained in document A/73/253.

*Mr. Chair,*

3. We are experiencing a rapid evolution which has never been seen before in the history of humankind. However, ongoing wars, conflicts and tension in many parts of the world still remain unsolved. One of the main reasons of this situation is the fact that international law has not been observed in good faith. For this reason, Viet Nam is of the view that maintaining and promoting the rule of law at both national and international levels is critical to maintaining peace and security, achieving sustainable development, and protecting and promoting human rights.

4. The promotion of the rule of law at the international level must be based on the fundamental principles of international law, particularly those enshrined in the United Nations Charter, such as respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of states, non-interference in internal affairs, non-threat or use of force, and peaceful settlement of disputes.

5. Concerning the settlement of disputes, it is our consistent position that all disputes must be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with international law. We would like to highlight the fundamental role of the International Court of Justice and other international judicial institutions in the peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law including through their advisory opinions on any legal question.

6. In our region, together with other members of ASEAN, Viet Nam is striving to build South East Asia into a zone of peace, stability and prosperity. In the context of complex developments in the East Sea (also known as the South China Sea), we call upon all parties concerned to exercise self-restraint and settle disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law including the United Nations Charter and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, fully respect diplomatic and legal processes, implement the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and expedite the conclusion of an effective and legally binding Code of Conduct (COC).

7. Viet Nam is of the view that the strengthening of the rule of law at the national level should be in line with the universally accepted principles of international law as well as the specific conditions of each state and the aspiration of its people. Viet Nam has been carrying out its National Plan of Action for implementing the 2030 Agenda for achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, including measures for continuous legal and judicial reforms. We have recorded significant achievements in improving our legal and judicial systems, the rule-of-law and protection of fundamental rights of our people in conformity with relevant international conventions. Viet Nam has also been actively engaged in the United Nations-led processes of codification and progressive development of international law. In May this year, we

ratified the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and thus became the 10<sup>th</sup> member state to the Treaty.

*Mr. Chair,*

8. Viet Nam appreciates United Nations efforts in promoting international law and strengthening the rule of law at the international and national level. We strongly support the central role of the United Nations in this field, especially in assisting developing States in formulating and implementing national legislations and international agreements. We reiterate our commitment to working closely with the United Nations and all Member States to strengthen the rule of law for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

I thank you, Mr. Chair./.