



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

Statement by the Ambassador Dang Dinh Quy

Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the Sixth Committee

of the 75th Session of the General Assembly

Agenda item 86: “The rule of law at national and international levels”

New York, 19, 20 and 22 October 2020

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Mr. Chair,

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).

The rule of law at national and international levels is critical to the strengthening and development of each nation and the international community at large, the promotion and protection of human rights, the achievement of sustainable development and the maintenance of international peace and security. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, protecting the most vulnerable, eliminating inequality within and among States and ensuring respect for international commitments are some of the key components in our efforts to effectively respond to the pandemic and build back better. We highly appreciate the instrumental role of the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations in supporting Member States in strengthening the rule of law at their request.

Mr. Chair,

We are convinced that international law must be the foundation of the international system. Full respect must be paid to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. In particular, it is our consistent position that all disputes must be resolved by peaceful means in accordance with international law. The International Court of Justice and other international judicial

institutions play a fundamental role in the peaceful settlement of disputes and ensuring respect for the rule of law at international level.

In our region, together with other members of ASEAN, Viet Nam is striving towards building Southeast Asia into a region of peace, stability and prosperity. The East Sea (also known as the South China Sea) has great importance to the region and the world, as the main maritime navigation and trade connection between the Pacific and Indian oceans. We therefore share the concerns over recent complicated developments in the East Sea that have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region. We call on all parties to fully respect international law, especially the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (UNCLOS). We also call upon all parties concerned to enhance mutual trust and confidence, exercise self-restraint, refrain from unilateral acts which may complicate or escalate tensions at sea, settle disputes by peaceful means in accordance with international law including the UN Charter and UNCLOS, fully respect diplomatic and legal processes and fully comply with UNCLOS in determining maritime claims. We have been working together to promote the implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) in its entirety and are making progress towards early conclusion of an effective and substantive Code of Conduct (COC) that is to be in line with international law, including UNCLOS.

Mr. Chair,

Turning to the subtopic of discussion, the phenomenon of corruption continues to be one of the major challenges to the rule of law and sustainable socio-economic development of our societies. Viet Nam is firmly committed to fighting corruption in all its forms and at all levels and strengthen the resilience of our public institutions and our society to corruption. As a state party to the UN Convention against Corruption, Viet Nam has been contributing effectively to its full implementation, including through the ongoing implementation review mechanism (IRM). We look forward to a fruitful exchange and sharing of best practice on this topic.

I thank you./