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Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 19 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a document reflecting the position of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam with reference to the annex to the letter dated 7 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/69/429](#)) (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a).

(Signed) **Nguyen Phuong Nga**
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 19 November 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Viet Nam to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the annex to the letter dated 7 October 2014 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/69/429](#)) and in response to the Philippine proposal annexed to the letter dated 19 September 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Philippines addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/69/401](#)), the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has the honour to reaffirm the following:

Viet Nam, as a coastal State that has legitimate rights and interests in the East Sea (South China Sea), resolutely rejects China's assertions in the aforesaid document ([A/69/429](#)), including paragraph 6, which states that "China's sovereignty and relevant rights and claims in the South China Sea have been formed over the long course of history, and upheld by successive Chinese Governments". This statement of China has no legal, historical and factual basis, and therefore is completely null and void.

Once again, Viet Nam emphasizes that Viet Nam possesses the full legal basis and historical evidence to affirm its sovereignty over the Hoang Sa (Paracels) and Truong Sa (Spratlys) archipelagoes, as well as its sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf, as established in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982. By this document, Viet Nam hereby reserves all its rights in the East Sea (South China Sea) under international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.
