

## **Statement of CCUFN on Naming Proposals of Undersea Features in the South China Sea**

10 November, 2023

Concerning the naming proposals of Undersea Features in the South China Sea, the China Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Name (CCUFN) makes the following statement.

Although it is not a proper occasion to discuss South China Sea issue at the 36th SCUFN Meeting, as some observers at the meeting claimed their position on South China Sea issue and mentioned the South China Sea Arbitration award repeatedly, it is necessary for CCUFN to introduce China's position on this issue.

China's position on the South China Sea issue is consistent. It reaffirmed its position by the Statement of the Government of the People's Republic of China on China's Territorial Sovereignty and Maritime Rights and Interests in the South China Sea in 2016. In accordance with national law and international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, to be simple and concrete, China has territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, including, inter alia: China has sovereignty over Nanhai Zhudao(the South China Sea Islands), consisting of Dongsha Qundao, Xisha Qundao, Zhongsha Qundao and Nansha Qundao. China has internal waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone based on Nanhai Zhudao, China has exclusive economic zone and continental shelf based on Nanhai Zhudao. China has historic rights in the South China Sea. The South China Sea Arbitration award violates international law. China does not accept or recognize the so called award, and will never accept any claim or action based on it. China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea shall under no circumstances be affected by the so-called award.

The undersea features of which China submits name proposals are all in the sea area under the jurisdiction of China in the South China Sea. China's naming proposals should be considered.

It is recalled that SCUFN members reached the following consensus on priority for naming features in the areas of jurisdiction.

*The statement by the Philippines (priority for naming features should be given to coastal States when features are located in their areas of jurisdiction such as EEZ, ECS.) was duly noted. With reference made to SCUFN Letter 01/2018 dated 6 March 2018 sent to the Permanent Delegation of Philippines to UNESCO, the Chair supported by the Secretary responded that, at this time, this interpretation - which seems to be based on common sense -, is not supported by the SCUFN Rules of Procedure and B-6 Guidelines in force; noting that it is neither recognized as a right as such by UNCLOS.*

CCUFN holds the position that if the priority for undersea feature names in their so-called EEZ claimed by some states is acknowledged, so is China's priority for UFNs in the sea area under the jurisdiction of China in the South China Sea.

China Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Name  
(CCUFN)