

China's Statement on Undersea Feature Naming in the South China Sea

26 June 2024

Taking into consideration the scientific, technical and international cooperative nature of SCUFN and its ROP 2.10, to avoid creating controversy at SCUFN meeting, the Chinese side echoes SCUFN 36's decision “to freeze the South China Sea for naming proposals until a joint proposal on the way forward is submitted by all interested parties.”

The Chinese side appreciates the Malaysian side's efforts in convening an engagement session with all interested parties pursuant to the above-mentioned decision. The Chinese side has actively exchanged views with the Malaysian side on May 24, 2024 as well as with the Malaysian side and the Philippine side on June 24, 2024, and keeps an open mind to jointly naming undersea features in the South China Sea with Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam.

The Chinese side believes that on the way forward, should any undersea feature proposal located in the South China Sea be conducted, it must follow the principle of consensus among all interested parties including China, and such a proposal could only be submitted to SCUFN when all interested parties agree. Before an effective consensus-based mechanism for quadrilateral consultation established on the spirit of mutual understanding, relevant parties should neither push forward any controversial proposal nor submit unilateral proposal in the South China Sea. China is willing to continue communication with all the other interested parties on this issue.

Any joint naming proposal will not affect the position of relevant parties on the South China Sea issue.