

STATEMENT OF VIET NAM

On the issue of naming undersea features in the South China Sea (East Sea or Bien Dong in Vietnamese), the position of Viet Nam is as follow:

First, Viet Nam continues to maintain its consistent position as stated at the 36th Meeting of SCUFN in Wollongong, Australia¹.

Second, in accordance with the decision and recommendation approved by SCUFN at 36th Meeting, Viet Nam has engaged with relevant interested Parties, particularly with Malaysia and the Philippines on this issue. On this regard, Viet Nam took note of the Statement of Malaysia as posted on the IHO's website on 19th June 2024.

Third, Viet Nam is committed to continue to engage further consultations with relevant interested Parties on the issue of naming the undersea features in the South China Sea, particularly with Malaysia and the Philippines in order to seek a mutual acceptable solution for all. Until and after relevant interested Parties arrive to a mutual acceptable solution, Viet Nam is of the view that the only available and acceptable interim solution is to maintain the decision of the 36th Meeting of SCUFN concerning all proposals of naming undersea features in the South China Sea. As the same time, Viet Nam is open for any contribution or action from SCUFN which may help relevant interested Parties to resolve this issue as soon as possible.

¹ At the 36th Meeting of SCUFN in Wollongong, Australia, Viet Nam released the following Statement: "First, Viet Nam is of the view that every coastal State should have a right of priority to name undersea features located within its EEZ or continental shelf as established in accordance with international law, including the 1982 UNCLOS; therefore, if there are other States who submitted their own proposals for naming undersea features located within our EEZ and continental shelf, these States should conduct necessary consultations with Viet Nam on this matter. Second, Viet Nam would like to confirm its own right to name undersea features within its EEZ or continental shelf; therefore, with regard to the so called "older names" proposed by other countries with regard to undersea features located within our EEZ or continental shelf, Viet Nam strongly supports the view that while these "older names" were not considered and accepted by SCUFN which is the sole international body having a right to accept relevant proposals submitted by coastal States, SCUFN should give a fair and equal treatment to all relevant proposals submitted by Viet Nam as the sole coastal State having the sovereign rights and jurisdiction over the maritime zones of the relevant undersea features"