



**Statement by H.E. Mr. PHAM Quang Hieu  
Deputy Foreign Minister  
Head of Delegation of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam  
at the 2022 United Nations Conference to Support the  
Implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 14:  
Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine  
resources for sustainable development**

*Interactive Dialogue 7: Enhancing the conservation and  
sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing  
international law, as reflected in the United Nations  
Convention on the Law of the Sea*

*(Lisbon, 30 June 2022)*

*Excellencies Co-chairs,*

1. First of all, I would like to thank the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Singapore and the Minister of the Environment, Energy and Climate of Iceland for co-chairing this important dialogue.

I also wish to extend appreciation to our distinguished panelists for their presentations.

*Co-Chairs,*

2. It is an interesting coincidence that our Conference is being held in the year that marks the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of UNCLOS.

Our dialogue therefore is an important forum for all of us to reaffirm the importance of international law of the sea, in particular the UNCLOS as the world's "Constitution for the oceans".

The Convention provides for a comprehensive legal framework in the oceans and seas, including the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and their resources.

In the face of challenges in the implementation of SDG 14 that delegates have emphasized in the last few days, our topic today can not be more timely.

In this regard, allow me to share the following points.

3. First, it is of utmost importance to promote the universal character of the Convention and its full implementation, as well as that of the implementing agreements.

The legal clarity that the Convention has brought so far regarding the extent of sovereignty, sovereign rights, and jurisdiction of States in the oceans and the seas must be maintained.

Peace and security that are the basis for sustainable use and management of the oceans must be nurtured in line with UNCLOS.

In order to do so, States must make claims and exercise their rights in accordance with the Convention.

The sovereign rights to the sustainable uses of resources by coastal states in their maritime zones established in accordance with UNCLOS must be respected and supported.

Peaceful settlement of disputes and full respect for mechanisms and processes provided for by the Convention must be the principle.

All actions to the opposite must be and, in fact, have been dismissed and condemned.

4. Second, we share the concern over the longstanding issues that hinder better implementation of UNCLOS.

These include climate change, degradation of ocean and coastal ecosystem health.

Disputes do not cease to impact maritime economies, the conduct of marine research as well as environmental protection.

Gaps in capacity and expertise in developing states remain one of the reasons for delays in the implementation of UNCLOS, the relevant instruments, and thus SDG14.

5. Third, we expect a fruitful negotiations at the upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> Intergovernmental Conference on BBNJ.

New marine technologies and tools must be more available and affordable.

Access to ocean data and information is increasingly feasible to ensure science-based decision-making and implementation.

In this respect, we highly appreciate recent efforts by UN entities, including the Division of Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission, and the International Seabed Authority.

New forms of international cooperation and partnership are also being explored with promising prospects.

*Co-Chairs,*

6. Viet Nam has always been a strong proponent of UNCLOS.

In enhancing the legal framework and its implementation on the oceans, we have strived to ensure that such efforts are all in line with UNCLOS.

7. Viet Nam has also actively joined international efforts to strengthen international and regional cooperation in this field.

In 2021, Viet Nam together with 11 other founding members established the Group of Friends of UNCLOS in New York, with the current participation of 115 member states.

In recent years, Viet Nam also co-hosted a series of ASEAN Regional Forum Workshops on implementing UNCLOS.

Various aspects of ocean governance are also central to our priorities.

These include the International Conferences that we co-hosted on Sustainable Ocean Economy and Climate Change Adaptation, and on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution.

In 2020, under Viet Nam's Chairmanship, at the East Asia Summit, ASEAN and its partners adopted a statement on marine sustainability.

*Co-Chairs,*

8. Decisions today shape reality tomorrow.

We truly believe that only by fully implementing UNCLOS, with strengthened commitment and innovative cooperation, could we successfully use and preserve healthy oceans for our future generations.

I thank you for your attention./.