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Agenda item 8

General debate

Letter dated 30 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of the written statement of the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations in exercise of the right of reply to the remarks made by the Philippines to the General Assembly on 21 September 2021 (see annex).

I should be most grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(Signed) **Zhang Jun**
Permanent Representative of the People's Republic of China
to the United Nations



Annex to the letter dated 30 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Chinese and English]

Right-of-reply statement responding to remarks made by the Philippines on the South China Sea at the general debate of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly

China expresses firm opposition to the remarks by the Philippines on the 2016 arbitral award on the South China Sea at the general debate of the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.

The arbitral tribunal in the South China Sea arbitration exercises jurisdiction ultra vires, renders awards in disregard of law, and subsequently violates the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and relevant international law. The so-called awards rendered by the arbitral tribunal are illegal, and null and void.

The Government of China has solemnly declared that China neither accepts nor participates in the South China Sea arbitration, and neither accepts nor recognizes the awards. China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea shall under no circumstances be affected by those awards. China opposes and will never accept any claim or action based on those awards.

China stands ready to continue to work with States directly concerned to resolve the relevant disputes in the South China Sea peacefully through negotiations and consultations on the basis of respecting historical facts and in accordance with international law. China is also ready to continue to work with ASEAN countries to jointly maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.
