



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

### Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

#### **Letter dated 9 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to address you and refer to the letter addressed to you dated 1 June 2020 from Ambassador Kelly Craft, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, regarding note verbale No. CML/14/2019 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations. China firmly opposes the completely wrong accusations made by the United States in the letter regarding China's sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea. China's position is detailed in the enclosed letter (see annex).

I would request that the present letter and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a), and that they be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea.

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



**Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Chinese]

I have the honour to refer to the letter addressed to you dated 1 June 2020 from Ambassador Kelly Craft, Permanent Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, regarding note verbale No. CML/14/2019 from the Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, and have the further honour to state China's position, as follows:

I. China's territorial sovereignty and its maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea are established in the long course of historical practice. They have been upheld by successive Chinese Governments and made public through the statements and diplomatic notes by the Chinese Government. China's territorial sovereignty and its maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea are consistent with international law, including the Charter of the United Nations and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This will not change because of the baseless accusations made by certain countries.

II. At present, China is working to properly resolve the relevant disputes in the South China Sea through friendly consultations with the countries directly concerned, and in close communication and cooperation with Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) countries on the South China Sea issues. The overall stability in the South China Sea is maintained and the freedom of navigation and overflight enjoyed by all countries under international law in the South China Sea is effectively safeguarded. The United States is not a State party to UNCLOS, nor a referee supervising the implementation of UNCLOS. The United States shall not deny China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea through misinterpreting UNCLOS. China urges the United States to fulfil its commitment not to take a position on sovereignty issues on the South China Sea. China also urges the United States not to cause troubles in the South China Sea, not to conduct military provocation and not to sow discord between China and ASEAN countries, but to fully respect China's territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea, and to respect the joint efforts made by China and ASEAN countries to maintain peace and stability in the South China Sea.

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