



## Vietnam's Marine Economic Management and Lessons Learned

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### ABSTRACT

**Abstract.** Managing, enforcing and protecting territorial sovereignty is the process of exercising our sovereignty, sovereignty and jurisdiction over our islands and territorial waters established in accordance with the Convention of The United Nations on the Law of the Sea 1982, is an organized and regulated effect of the State's laws on socio-economic activities, activities on the sea and islands to maintain and develop the relations, activities in order, in accordance with the provisions of the State. Managing and protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands have both internal and external factors. The management and protection of sovereignty over islands and islands are important issues that need to be studied and assessed.

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#### 1. Formulate a Policy on Management, Protection of Sovereignty Over Sea and Islands:

Recognizing the importance and strategic position of the sea and islands of Vietnam, our Party has made many proper and consistent guidelines and policies on the sea and islands. Especially, Resolution No. 09-NQ / TW, X lock, dated February 9, 2007, on the Vietnam Sea Strategy to 2020, this is the first time our Party has a comprehensive Sea Strategy, with a strategic vision. broad strategy, high inclusivity in the fields of economy - society, defense - security, foreign affairs, international cooperation, environment.

Along with that, our State has issued a series of legal documents to institutionalize the Party's great guidelines on the management and protection of sovereignty over sea and islands, such as the Government's Declaration on waters and baseline in 1977 and 1982; Petroleum Law 1993, Maritime Code 1991; Vietnam Civil Aviation Law of 1991; Ordinance on Border Guards in 1997; Ordinance on Vietnam Coast Guard Force 1998; National Border Law 2003; Vietnam Sea Law 2012; Law on natural resources, environment of sea and islands in 2015. Our State has also become a member of a series of international treaties related to the sea and oceans, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the International Sea - 1982 – UNCLOS- 1982 (Document of the 12th National Delegation Congress. (2016). Office of the Party Central Committee, Hanoi, p. 58 – 59).

#### 2. Strengthening National Defense, Security to Firmly Protect Sea and Islands Sovereignty:

In the context of increasingly complicated disputes in the South China Sea, with the indomitable tradition of the nation, the determination of the Party, the people and the army, we have firmly defended our sovereignty . Specifically, well defending the title of sovereignty over the Paracel Islands; firmly manage and protect 21 islands and yards with 33 points stationed on the Spratly Islands, well protect the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf of 200 nautical miles. Along with that, we have maintained the sovereignty, sovereignty and jurisdiction, rights and interests in Vietnam's waters through the maintenance of the system and operation of 15 DK platforms in the exclusive economic zone. Economic and continental shelf of Vietnam.

Perseverance and resolute struggle for violations of Vietnam's sovereignty over seas and islands. The Vietnamese state has been a claim of Vietnam's sovereignty over the Paracel and Spratly Islands. This position is expressed consistently in the promulgated legal documents on the sea, such as the Resolution of the National Assembly in 1994 ratifying the Law of the Sea Convention as well as in other official statements and statements of Vietnam. . At the same time, we struggle resolutely and appropriately in the field and on the diplomatic front and the public opinion on all violations of the countries' sovereignty over Vietnam's sea and islands. In addition to timely implementing resolute measures with stakeholders in case of complicated cases arising in the



South China Sea, we also take many proactive measures to prevent violations of sovereignty and rights. and our legitimate interests at sea.

We fight to protect our maritime sovereignty, islands, rights and interests at sea, both on the bilateral, regional and global multilateral forums, on both official channels and scholars under many Diverse forms, flexible. The struggle against violations of sovereignty over the sea and islands in the East Sea area has achieved positive results, taking advantage of the support of international public opinion about our cause and cause, and condemning it. Vietnam's infringement of sovereignty. Law enforcement forces at sea, such as the coast guard, border guards, active fishermen, proactively conduct patrols, inspections, control, detect and promptly handle violations of law. Vietnam in the waters of Vietnam, thereby contributing positively to maintaining security and order at sea, clearly demonstrating the role of management and protection of Vietnam's waters.

### **3. Development of Sea, Island Economy associates Economic Development with National Defense and security:**

Implementing the Sea Strategy, in recent years, the sea and island economy has developed strongly. Firstly, we have developed a system of 15 marine economic zones with over 100 foreign investment projects with a registered capital of nearly 39 billion USD and trillions VND, creating jobs for tens of thousands of workers and are motivation for socio-economic development of localities, regions and the whole country (Resolution No. 09-NQ / TW, Session X, February 9, 2007, On the Vietnam Sea Strategy to 2020).

Secondly, the fishery economy grew continuously on an average of 5% - 7%/year, of which the export value of 2006 increased 250 times compared to 1981. Export of seafood in 2017 reached 8.3 billion USD, an increase of 18% compared to 2016 (Resolution No. 09-NQ / TW, term X, February 9, 2007, On the Vietnam Sea Strategy to 2020).

Thirdly, for many years, the exploitation of oil and gas in Vietnam's seas has contributed from 18% - 26% / year to GDP, contributing to national GDP growth. (Resolution No. 09-NQ / TW, Session X, February 9, 2007, On the Vietnam Sea Strategy to 2020).

Fourthly, sea and island tourism always attract a large number of domestic and foreign tourists (over 70% of total international visitors and over 50% of total domestic tourists). In 2015 alone, the tourism industry contributed 6.6% of the national GDP, of which sea and island tourism accounted for a large proportion. (Resolution No. 09-NQ / TW, Session X, February 9, 2007, On the Vietnam Sea Strategy to 2020).

In 2018, the National Center for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast - Ministry of Planning and Investment assessed that overall, the development of sea

and island economy in Vietnam was still not up to the conditions. and available advantages. The scale of the world's marine economy is estimated at 1,300 billion USD. According to estimates, the average economic scale of the sea and coastal areas of Vietnam is about 47-48% of the national GDP, of which, the GDP of the "pure sea" economy is only about 20-22% of the total GDP of the country (The National Center for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast - Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2018). Among the marine economic sectors, the share of economic activities taking place at sea accounts for 98%, mainly oil and gas exploitation, aquaculture, fishing, shipping, and tourism. Economic sectors directly related to marine exploitation such as oil and gas processing, seafood processing, ship building and repair, communication, initially developed, but now the new scale accounts for about 2% of marine economy and 0.4% of the national GDP (The National Center for Socio-Economic Information and Forecast - Ministry of Planning and Investment, 2018). Although the infrastructure of the seas, coastal areas and islands is concerned, it is still limited. The seaport system is small, fragmented, the ship network and equipment are generally outdated and inconsistent, so the efficiency is low.

### **4. Propaganda Contributes to Raising Awareness about the Role of the Sea and Islands in the Cause of Building and Defending the Fatherland:**

The propaganda and awareness raising activities for cadres and people on the role and importance of the sea and islands in the cause of national construction and defense have been focused and manifested in various forms and styles. rich, consistent with the reality, level, awareness of the object of propaganda. At the same time, providing objective and orientation information on ongoing issues, especially those related to sovereignty disputes in the South China Sea, so that all classes of people can understand correctly and fully substance matter; respond in a timely manner to the questions and concerns of the people and officials about the happenings of the situation; thereby creating trust, raising common consensus in society towards the guidelines and policies of our Party and State in the issue of sovereignty over sea and islands, and breaking up plots and intentions to take advantage of the subject matter. rights of sea and islands to create internal divisions, to oppose our Party and State. Information and propaganda has aroused national pride, resilience and indomitable will of the people in firmly defending the sovereignty of the sea and islands, making every citizen of Vietnam see their responsibilities clearly. , and their obligations towards national sovereignty over sea and islands, thereby contributing to promoting the solidarity of the entire nation, joining together and resolving to master and protect the sea and sacred islands of the Fatherland.



### **5. Strengthen the Creation of a Favorable International Environment to Contribute to the Protection of Sovereignty over Islands and Islands:**

Smoothly combine cooperation and struggle, between peaceful settlement of disputes and the search for cooperative measures to build trust to create opportunities for dispute resolution; between respect for each other's legitimate interests and adherence to international law ... are the focal points of creating a peaceful and stable environment on the seas and islands of the Fatherland. In this process, we have achieved many significant achievements, shown in the basic features: Firstly, the peaceful environment conducive to development, independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. Hold.

Secondly, many disputes related to sovereignty over sea and islands have been solved, thereby contributing to promoting friendly and cooperative relations with related countries (Vietnam has definitely solved the maritime delimitation issue with China in the Gulf of Tonkin; with Thailand in the Gulf of Thailand; solving the problem of delimiting the continental shelf with Indonesia; conducting joint oil and gas exploitation with Malaysia; fishing cooperation with China; establishing hotlines between the Vietnamese Navy and the Chinese Navy; Malaysia, Philippines and Cambodia.

At the same time, we conduct joint patrols with Thailand, Cambodia and China; cooperate in marine scientific research with the Philippines.). Third, actively shape the common voice of peace, security and stability in the South China Sea in regional, multilateral and global mechanisms. Fourthly, actively participate in the development of international laws related to the sea and oceans on a regional and global scale. Fifth, uphold and promote the principle of peaceful settlement of international disputes based on international law. Sixth, promote bilateral and multilateral relations; actively and proactively creating frameworks for strategic partners, comprehensive partners and interwoven benefits to contribute to the protection of Vietnam's sovereignty over seas and islands.

### **5. Perfect the Institution of Sea and Island Management**

Gradually building and perfecting the mechanism of management of the sea and islands through the formation of a number of law enforcement forces at sea and at the same time raising the role and responsibilities of the border and navy forces. Regarding the organization, step by step perfecting the State management apparatus for sea and islands together with the specific assignment of responsibilities in the fields of state management of sea and islands among the ministries: Foreign Affairs, Defense, Public Security, Transport, Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development ... Combining state management by industry and territory in the sea and islands.

Developing quality human resources to meet the requirements of management and protection of sovereignty over sea and islands. The training and formation of quality human resources to meet the requirements of the new situation has been focused and paid attention to. In addition to the formal training for the forces in charge of managing and protecting the sea and islands, many training courses on general state management of the sea and islands have been organized in ministries, branches and localities. International cooperation to improve the quality of human resources in the sea and islands has also been expanded with many different partners.

### **6. These lessons learned:**

Based on the evaluation of achievements as well as outstanding issues in the management, enforcement and protection of sovereignty over sea and islands, some lessons can be drawn.

Firstly, sovereignty over seas and islands is a sacred matter to our Party, State and people. Therefore, protecting the sovereignty of the sea and islands needs to promote the strength of the entire nation under the absolute leadership of the Party and the direction of the State, including the assignment of tasks and specific responsibilities of each. branches and levels.

Secondly, the management and protection of sovereignty must be based on the immutable basis that sovereignty and territorial integrity are sacred, cannot be violated, but also need flexibility in implementation measures from time to time. , each situation with the highest goal of protecting the national and national interests.

Thirdly, combining national power and era power, upholding our righteousness in order to maximize the support of the international community; create a mix of interests in all aspects to create a favourable environment for the protection of sovereignty over sea and islands.

Fourthly, create consensus and high consensus among state agencies, ministries and people on the guidelines and guidelines for management and protection of sovereignty over sea and islands in order to promote the strength of the entire nation in public affairs. sovereignty protection of sea and islands.

Fifthly, actively, proactively prevent and prevent acts of infringing upon Vietnam's sovereignty through political, defence - security cooperation; military deterrence; upholding the indomitable, tenacious and courageous will of the nation throughout the history of national construction and defence./.

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