



# PRESS RELEASE

DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE

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## Statement of the SND on the US Position on Maritime Claims in the South China Sea

We strongly agree with the position of the international community that there should be a rules-based order in the South China Sea.

We urge China to comply with the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling, and abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS) to which it is a signatory.

It is in the best interest of regional stability that China heed the call of the community of nations to follow international law and honor existing international agreements.

Moving forward, we continue to push for the finalization of a substantive Code of Conduct in the South China Sea to settle disputes and prevent the escalation of tensions in the region.

**Delfin N. Lorenzana**  
Secretary of National Defense

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