

**By Email**

Special Procedures Branch

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

30 September, 2024

Re: Response by Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation (Ref: AL OTH 73/2024)

Dear Sir,

Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation (FHS) wishes to extend our greetings to you. We sincerely appreciate your concern about FHS's operations and certain related issues.

FHS is a private enterprise with factories in Vietnam. It strictly adheres to Vietnamese laws and international standards in implementing various environmental protection, industrial safety, and occupational health and safety measures. It periodically undergoes inspections by Vietnamese government agencies and meets all standards. Therefore, it has been allowed to legally operate and produce products in Vietnam.

The event in April 2016 that you expressed concern about was an isolated environmental accident. FHS immediately made a payment pursuant to the demand of the Vietnamese government in August 2016. The Vietnamese government has used the funds to compensate the affected individuals for their personal and property losses and loss of work, and to implement various measures to restore the locals' livelihoods, safeguard their health, and rehabilitate marine ecology, which was reported by the Vietnamese media at that time.

The impact of the April 2016 event on the locals was brought under control in the shortest time possible, and a nearly full recovery was achieved in May 2018. On May 17, 2018, in the final advisory meeting for stabilizing the livelihoods, production, and operations in the four central provinces affected by the environmental incident, the Vietnamese Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development reported that the marine environment had returned to normal two years after the event, and that the results of marine water quality testing had met national standards. The Vietnamese Ministry of Health had monitored the quality of fishing catches, including deep-sea catches, and confirmed that they were safe to consume. The then Prime Minister of Vietnam, Nguyễn Xuân Phúc, stated that the Vietnamese government had actively carried out a host of improvements, leading to a return to normalcy in the people's lives. The fishing, aquaculture, fishery operation, and salt production in the four central provinces, along with marine recreation areas and beaches, had returned to normal, and consumers could now eat various types of seafood with confidence.

After the April 2016 event, FHS has invested over US\$1 billion in various environmental initiatives to ensure that all its emissions comply with Vietnamese regulations. No similar incidents have occurred since then. For all the issues identified in your letter, FHS is currently operating in compliance with various laws and regulations of the Vietnamese government. Lastly, because the non-business-related issues and issues involving governmental authority in your letter are beyond FHS's province, FHS is unable to comment or respond to them.

Respectfully,

Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation