

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
THIRD REGULAR SESSION

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. _____ 2008

Introduced by HON. FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.,
HON. NEPTALI M. GONZALES II and HON. DANILO E. SUA

**RESOLUTION STRONGLY SUPPORTING THE FILING OF AN ARBITRATION
CASE AGAINST CHINA UNDER ARTICLE 287 AND ANNEXURE II
OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION OF THE LAW OF THE SEA
BY HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III**

WHEREAS, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) entered into force on 16 November 1994 and ratified or acceded to by 164 States is known as the "Constitution for the Oceans";

WHEREAS, UNCLOS prescribes the maritime entitlements of coastal states and the rights, jurisdiction and obligations over these maritime entitlements;

WHEREAS, as parties to the UNCLOS, both China and the Philippines have undertaken in faith the obligation to exercise the rights, jurisdiction and freedoms recognized in a manner which would not constitute an abuse of right;

WHEREAS, China violates not only the rights and jurisdictions of the Philippines and other coastal states by claiming virtually the entire South China Sea through its nine-dash line claim;

WHEREAS, China further violates the rights and jurisdictions of the Philippines by its continuous aggressive assertion of its nine-dash line claim in the West Philippine Sea;

WHEREAS, the Philippines, in the spirit of good and friendly relations with China, has exhausted almost all available tools through its three-track approach – political, diplomatic, legal – to peacefully settle the dispute in the West Philippine Sea;

WHEREAS, China declined the earlier invitation by the Philippines to settle the dispute peacefully under any of the available dispute settlement mechanisms under UNCLOS;

