



General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 September 2020

Original: English

Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

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

Letter dated 8 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I write in reference to the letter dated 5 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/942](#)), concerning maritime notice No. 10/2018 issued by the Ra's al-Khaymah Port Authority on 7 May 2018.

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale dated 1 September 2020 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates (see annex), in response to the note verbale annexed to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Oman.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated to Member States and issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a).

(Signed) Lana **Nusseibeh**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 8 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Note verbale dated 1 September from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates would like to refer to the note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman annexed to the letter dated 5 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/74/942). We wish to inform you of the following:

1. In October 2008, in compliance with article 14 of the boundary agreement of 22 June 2002 between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates concerning the border sectors from the east of Uqaydat to Darah, the Government of the United Arab Emirates, at the invitation of the Government of Oman, entered into negotiations to demarcate the maritime boundary between the two countries. Negotiations were conducted in January 2009, December 2015, April and November 2016, November 2017 and April 2018. To date, no agreement has been reached on maritime boundaries in any of the maritime sectors under negotiation. Specifically, no agreement has been reached on the demarcation of median lines or even on criteria for demarcating such lines. Therefore, the Government of the United Arab Emirates stresses that it can in no way be bound by any unilateral demarcations made in that regard.

2. During the time that successive negotiations to determine the boundaries of maritime areas between the United Arab Emirates and Oman were ongoing, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office issued updated editions of maps 3174 and 2888 for 2017 that included an anchorage area in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates in the Arabian Gulf off the United Arab Emirates port of Saqr at coordinates N 26°06'32", E 55°57'06". This was done without identifying the party that requested the addition of this area.

3. On 5 February 2018, the competent authority of the United Arab Emirates contacted the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to inquire as to the party that requested publication of the anchorage area. In their electronic response dated 5 February 2018 (Ref. No.: CS-152163), they stated that the publication was issued at the request of the Oman National Hydrographic Office pursuant to notification no. 13/2015.

4. On 13 February 2018, the competent authority in the United Arab Emirates requested the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to remove the anchorage area from the two maps on the grounds that it is located in United Arab Emirates territorial waters and that the maps were published without prior approval from the competent authority in the United Arab Emirates. The United Kingdom Hydrographic Office informed us that the anchorage area had been established in accordance with the provisions of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea.

5. On 19 June 2018, the competent authority of the United Arab Emirates informed Mr. Tim Lewis of the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office that the Governments of the United Arab Emirates and Oman had been engaged in negotiations to demarcate the maritime boundary between the two countries since 2008, and that it would be extremely unwise for the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to establish an anchorage area based on information received unilaterally from

the Oman National Hydrographic Office, which would have the effect of lending credibility to the insupportable negotiating position of Oman at the expense of the United Arab Emirates. The competent authority of the United Arab Emirates therefore requested the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to remove the anchorage area in question without delay for the duration of the ongoing negotiations between the two countries.

6. The United Arab Emirates wishes to note that for the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to publish a map with an anchorage area off the port of Saqr without consulting or requesting permission from the competent authority of the United Arab Emirates constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territorial waters and a threat to maritime navigation and the safety of life.

7. On 26 September 2018, the competent authority in the United Arab Emirates contacted the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization to ask him to intervene and direct the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office to remove the anchorage area located in the territorial waters of the United Arab Emirates from the above-mentioned maps as soon as possible and without delay to ensure the safety of maritime navigation in the area. Unfortunately, the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office has not responded to that request.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates condemns and rejects the call by Oman through the United Nations for all Member States to direct their flagged ships to ignore maritime notice No. 10/2018 issued by the Ra's al-Khaymah Port Authority on 7 May 2018. It also requests Member States to ignore the note verbale of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman in that regard and holds the Government of Oman responsible for any consequences resulting from that call.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates considers the present note verbale to the United Nations Secretariat to be an official document and requests the United Nations Secretariat to circulate it to the delegations of the Member States of the Organization.
