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Oceans and the law of the sea**Letter dated 16 December 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 December 2020, from the Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations, addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/700](#)), 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 14 December 2021 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates in response to the note verbale annexed to the letter from the Permanent Representative of Oman (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 78.

(Signed) Mohamed **Abushahab**
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2021 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Note verbal dated 14 December 2021 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 presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to refer to the letter dated 22 December 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/700](#)). The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates would like to inform you of the following:

1. We reaffirm the contents of our note verbale dated 1 September 2020, annexed 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 ([A/74/1007](#)), including the following:

(a) The publication by the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office of an anchorage area off the United Arab Emirates port of Saqr without consulting or requesting permission from the relevant authority in the United Arab Emirates is a violation of the State's sovereignty over its territorial waters. Such behaviour endangers the safety of maritime navigation and puts lives at risk.

(b) We demand that the United Kingdom Hydrographic Office remove the anchorage area from maps 3174 and 2888 of 2017 on the grounds that it is located in United Arab Emirates territorial waters.

2. The Government of the United Arab Emirates finds it odd that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman should cite national laws of the United Arab Emirates to justify its violation of the sovereignty of the United Arab Emirates over its territorial sea. The applicable law in this case would be the international law of the sea, which is codified in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. There is no call for recourse to the national laws of any of the parties concerned.

3. The Government of the United Arab Emirates rejects the continued call by the Government of Oman on all States to direct their flagged ships to ignore maritime notice No. 10/2018 issued by the Ra's al-Khaymah Port Authority in the United Arab Emirates on 7 May 2018.

4. The Government of the United Arab Emirates, for its part, calls on United Nations Member States to direct their flagged ships to ignore the Omani anchorage area provided for in maritime notice No. 13/2015 and will hold the Government of Oman internationally responsible for any threat or harm to navigation or lives.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation requests the Secretariat to treat the present note verbal as an official document and circulate it to the Member States of the Organization.