



General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 December 2023

Original: English

Seventy-eighth session

Agenda item 75 (a)

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

Note verbale dated 21 December 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations refers to maritime zone notification M.Z.N.160.2022.LOS dated 20 September 2022 regarding the deposit made by the United Arab Emirates of lists of geographical coordinates of points defining straight baselines of the maritime zones of the United Arab Emirates.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia has the honour to forward a memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (see annex) reaffirming the rejection by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the coordinates declared in the aforementioned deposit made by the United Arab Emirates, which contravenes international law.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia upholds all the positions outlined in its memorandum dated 9 August 2009 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, published in issue No. 71 of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, regarding Cabinet resolution No. 5, dated 14 January 2009, in respect of the application of the straight baselines system to a part of the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

The Mission would like to kindly request that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a), and published in the next issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 21 December 2023 from the
Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations.

The Ministry refers to maritime zone notification M.Z.N.160.2022.LOS, dated 20 September 2022, and to issue No. 110 (2023) of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, which contains United Arab Emirates cabinet resolution No. 35 (2022) on the application of the straight baseline system to the coasts of the United Arab Emirates. In that resolution, it is declared, contrary to international law, that the straight baselines off the Saudi coast have no relation to the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that it rejects that declaration and that it does not recognize it or any consequences arising therefrom. It asserts all its rights and interests in accordance with international law and the binding border agreement that the two countries concluded on 3 Sha‘ban A.H. 1394 (21 August A.D. 1974), under which the maritime zone of the Kingdom extends off the coast of Udayd Governorate to the middle of the Arabian Gulf.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms all the positions outlined in its memorandum dated 9 August 2009 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, published in issue No. 71 of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*, regarding Council of Ministers decision No. 5, dated 14 January 2009, in respect of the application of the straight baselines system to a part of the coast of the United Arab Emirates.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reiterates its call upon the United Arab Emirates to implement paragraph 5 of the border agreement that the two countries concluded in 1974.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the present communication to be an official document and asks the Secretariat to register and publish it and to circulate it to all Member States, in accordance with United Nations procedures.
