The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the United Nations Maritime Zone Notification M.Z.N.122.2016.LOS dated 08 September 2016 regarding the deposit by Pakistan on 30 August 2016 of a chart including a list of geographical coordinates of points and relevant information “permanently describing the outer limits of its continental shelf”. Such deposit was purported to be made under Articles 76(9) and 84(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

It is the view of the Government of Oman that the Government of Pakistan is not in a position in accordance with international law to “permanently describe” the outer limits of its continental shelf at this time, nor to deposit such information pursuant to Articles 76(9) or 84(2) of the Convention.

The Government of Oman wishes to recall that the outer limits of the continental shelf of Pakistan remain subject to the delimitation of a continental shelf boundary with Oman in accordance with the principles in Article 83 of the Convention. The need for such delimitation was acknowledged by the Government of Pakistan in its diplomatic note Sixth/LS/7/2014 to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General dated 09 October 2014. No such continental Shelf boundary has yet been delimited, although the Government of Oman remains willing to work with the Government of Pakistan towards the delimitation boundary at the mutual convenience of both parties.

As provided by Articles 76(10) and Article 9 of Annex II of the Convention, the recommendations of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf in respect of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Pakistan, shall not be prejudiced in matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States. The Government of Pakistan therefore may not act on the recommendation of the Commission if doing so would prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf boundary with Oman.
The Government of Oman is of the view that the deposit by the Government of Pakistan on 30 August 2016 of charts and information purporting to "permanently describe" the outer limits of the continental shelf is inconsistent with that principle. Any outer limits unilaterally described by the Government of Pakistan in such circumstances thus cannot be regarded as "final and binding" on other States, including Oman, under Article 76(8) of the Convention.

The Government of Oman requests the Secretary-General to give due publicity to this communication and to circulate a copy to member states of the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Secretary-General to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 9 December 2016

The Office of the Secretary-General
United Nations
New York
No. Sixth/LS/7/2014

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the Submission made by Pakistan regarding the outer limits of its Continental Shelf submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) on April 30, 2009, and to the “Preliminary Information” regarding the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf of the Sultanate of Oman submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf by Oman on April 15, 2009.

Pursuant to the bilateral discussions on the subject held in Muscat on May 21, 2012, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan acknowledges the rights of the Sultanate of Oman under international law in respect of its Continental Shelf, and recognizes that the area included in Pakistan’s submission may overlap with the area of the Continental Shelf contained in Oman’s “Preliminary Information” and its future continental shelf submission. The overlapping area, if any, shall be subject to the delimitation of a Continental Shelf boundary between Pakistan and Oman, to be resolved bilaterally.

Without prejudice to future delimitation or any Continental Shelf Submission to be made by Oman, the “Potential Maritime Boundaries” in the Arabian Sea published in Pakistan’s Submission were ascertained unilaterally, and may, therefore be subject to future delimitation.

Consistent with Article 76, paragraph 10, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan confirms that its submission has been made without prejudice to any future Submission to be made by Oman or to any eventual future delimitation of the Continental Shelf between Pakistan and Oman that may be required.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the assurances of its highest consideration.
The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the submission made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan regarding the outer limits of its continental shelf submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 30 April 2009.

The Sultanate of Oman acknowledges that the area of the continental shelf contained in Pakistan’s submission may overlap with the area of Oman’s continental shelf submission. The Sultanate of Oman further confirms that it is actively involved in the preparation of a continental shelf submission and plans to present its submission as detailed in its “Preliminary Information” submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 15 April 2009. The overlapping area, if any, would be subject to the delimitation of a Continental Shelf boundary between Oman and Pakistan.

Without prejudice to any future delimitation or any Continental Shelf Submission to be made by Oman, the “Potential Maritime Boundaries” in the Arabian Sea published in Pakistan’s submission were ascertained unilaterally, and may, therefore be subject to future delimitation.

The Sultanate of Oman notes the statement made by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in its note no. Sixth/LS/7/2014 of 9th October 2014 that, consistent with Article 76, paragraph 10, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, its submission has been made without prejudice to any future submission to be made by Oman or to any eventual future delimitation of the continental shelf between Pakistan and Oman that may be required. On that basis, the Sultanate of Oman withdraws the request contained in its note on 7th of August 2009, and confirms that it has no objection to the Commission considering and making recommendations on Pakistan’s Submission.

The Permanent Mission of the Sultanate of Oman to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General to the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 10 November 2014

Executive Office of the Secretary-General
To the United Nations
New York