



SUBMISSION BY
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH TO
THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
(AMENDED)





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Preface

This submission (Submission) by the People's Republic of Bangladesh was prepared under the “UNCLOS 1982 Implementation Special Program” of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The following Government Ministries, institutions, organisations and advisers were involved in the preparation of the Amended Submission:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs;
- Bangladesh Navy;
- Geological Survey of Bangladesh;
- Bangladesh Oil, Gas and Mineral Corporation (Petrobangla);
- Bangladesh Petroleum Exploration and Production Company Limited (BAPEX);
- Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization (SPARRSO);
- Dr Lindsay Parson, Dr Rosemary Edwards, Maritime Zone Solutions Ltd; and,
- Mr Joshua Brien, Legal Adviser.





Executive Summary

1. Introduction

- 1.1** This Executive Summary forms part of the Amended Submission by the People's Republic of Bangladesh ('Bangladesh') to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('Commission') made pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('Convention').
- 1.2** Bangladesh is a unitary, independent, sovereign Republic located in a region of South Asia that straddles the fertile Ganges-Brahmaputra Delta. It is bordered by the Republic of India ('India') on all sides, with the exception of a land/river boundary with the Union of Myanmar ('Myanmar') to the far southeast and its southern coastline on the Bay of Bengal.
- 1.3** Bangladesh is a State Party to the Convention, having signed it on 10 December 1982 and later ratified it on 27 July 2001¹.
- 1.4** As provided for under Article 76, paragraph 1 of the Convention, Bangladesh has a continental shelf comprising the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, up to the limits provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 or, to a distance of 200 nautical miles ('M') from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Bangladesh is measured ('territorial sea baselines') where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend beyond that distance.
- 1.5** This Submission is made by Bangladesh in support of the outer limits of its continental shelf where it extends beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines.
- 1.6** It is noted that Bangladesh made a Submission to the Commission on 25 February 2011². This Amended Submission replaces the original Submission in its entirety in order to give effect to the Judgement of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) in the *Delimitation of the maritime boundary in the Bay of Bengal (Bangladesh/Myanmar), Judgment*, of

¹ See: https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetailsIII.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=XXI-6&chapter=21&Temp=mtdsg3&clang=en.

² See: https://www.un.org/Depts/los/clcs_new/submissions_files/submission_bgd_55_2011.htm



14 March 2012 ('Bangladesh/Myanmar Judgement')³ and the Award in the *Matter of the Bay of Bengal Maritime Boundary Arbitration between the People's Republic of Bangladesh and the Republic of India* of 7 July 2014 by the Arbitral Tribunal ('Bangladesh/India Award')⁴, which resulted in the delimitation of maritime boundaries respectively between Bangladesh and Myanmar and Bangladesh and India, including areas of continental shelf extending beyond 200 M of the territorial sea baselines.

1.7 For the purposes of this Amended Submission, Bangladesh has applied the relevant provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, the *Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf* (CLCS/40/Rev.1), adopted by the Commission on 17 April 2008 ('Rules of Procedure'), and the recommendations contained in the *Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf* (CLCS/11) adopted by the Commission on 13 May 1999 ('the Guidelines').

1.8 The Amended Submission is presented in the following parts:

- an Executive Summary;
- a main analytical and descriptive part ('Main Body'); and,
- the required supporting scientific and technical data ('Supporting Scientific and Technical Data').

1.9 This Executive Summary provides a brief description of the relevant area of continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines and a depiction of the outer limits of the continental shelf determined by Bangladesh.

2. Provisions of Article 76 Invoked

2.1 Paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 set out specific formulae and constraints by which a coastal State such as Bangladesh may establish the outer edge of its continental margin, and its legal continental shelf, wherever that margin extends beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines.

2.2 As set out in paragraph 7 of Article 76, a coastal State is to delineate the outer limits of its continental shelf that extend beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines by

³ https://www.itlos.org/fileadmin/itlos/documents/cases/case_no_16/published/C16_Judgment.pdf

⁴ <https://pca-cpa.org/en/cases/18/>



constructing straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude.

- 2.3** Bangladesh has applied paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4(a)(i), 5 and 7 of Article 76 of the Convention in support of the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf as outlined in Section 5 of this Executive Summary.

3. Regional Overview and Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf

- 3.1** The landmass of Bangladesh, situated between the southern edge of the Himalaya Range and the northern limit of the Bay of Bengal, consists mainly of sediments deposited by the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna ('GBM') river systems and their ancestors.

- 3.2** The continental shelf of Bangladesh is represented by the submerged prolongation of the land territory of Bangladesh into the Bay of Bengal. Opening out to the Indian Ocean to the south, the Bay of Bengal covers an area of ocean space in the order of 2,172,000 km². It is bordered by India and Sri Lanka to the west, Bangladesh and the Indian state of West Bengal to the north, and Myanmar together with the Andaman and Nicobar Islands of India to the east.

- 3.3** A number of large river systems, including the GBM, Godavari, Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri all flow into the Bay of Bengal. The accumulation of sediments discharged by these river systems and their ancestors over millions of years, especially from the GBM, has resulted in the development of a prominent submarine feature within the Bay of Bengal known as the Bengal Fan. The Bengal Fan extends from 22°N to 8°S and from 80°E to 93°E, and represents one of the world's largest sedimentary basins.

- 3.4** A detailed examination of the geology of the region is presented in the Main Body of the Amended Submission. This includes a discussion of the natural prolongation of the Bangladesh landmass and the extension of the outer edge of the continental margin beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines of Bangladesh.

- 3.5** The outer limits of the continental shelf determined through the application of Article 76 have been adjusted by Bangladesh so as to give effect to the Bangladesh/Myanmar Judgement by the ITLOS that delimits a maritime boundary between Bangladesh and Myanmar including where it extends beyond 200 M measured from the relevant territorial sea baselines, and the Bangladesh/India Award by the Arbitral Tribunal, which delimits a maritime boundary between Bangladesh and India including where it extends beyond 200 M measured from the relevant territorial sea baselines.



3.6 Accordingly, the outer limits of the continental shelf of Bangladesh in this Amended Submission are defined by **1** fixed point (see: Map 1 below). The coordinates of the fixed point (in decimal degrees, latitude and longitude) are listed in Table 1 of this Executive Summary.

4. Settled and Outstanding Delimitations

4.1 Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention provides that the actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts. The Commission has therefore adopted a practice, contained in Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, which is intended to prevent the consideration of submissions covering disputed areas of continental shelf without the consent of the parties in dispute.

4.2 In accordance with paragraph 2(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, Bangladesh notes that the outer limits of the continental shelf presented in this Amended Submission have been adjusted to give effect to the binding maritime boundary delimitations established in the Bangladesh/Myanmar Judgement and the Bangladesh/India Award referred to above. Accordingly, the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf by the Commission in respect of area submitted by Bangladesh in this Amended Submission can no longer be considered to be the subject of any unresolved dispute between Bangladesh and any opposite or adjacent State for the purposes of Rule 46 and Annex I to the Rules of Procedure.

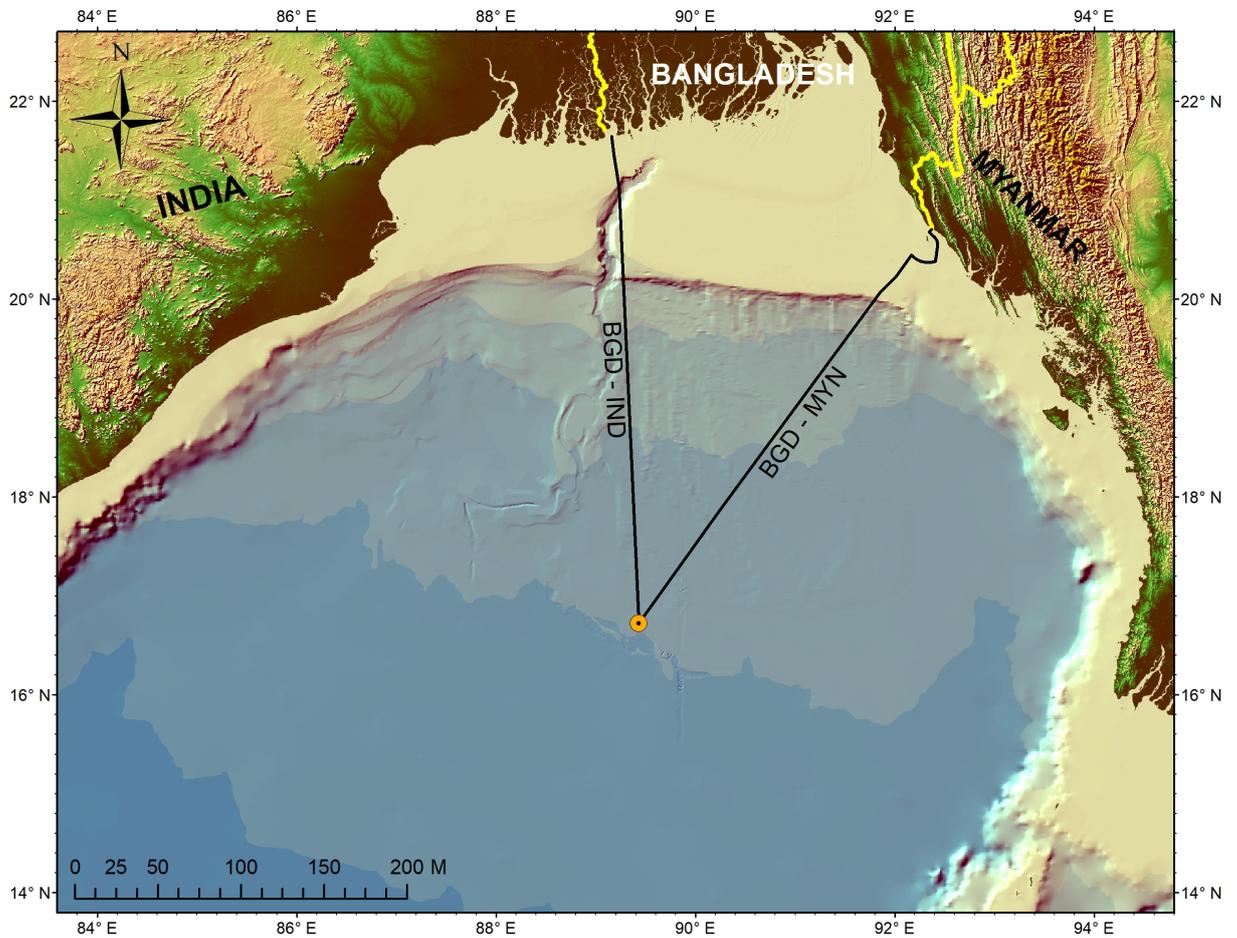
5. Maps and Coordinates

5.1 Map 1 depicts the outer limits of the continental shelf of Bangladesh. The coordinates in degrees, minutes, and seconds (DMS) of the fixed point that defines the outer limits of the continental shelf of Bangladesh is included in Table 1.

5.2 All maps, charts and databases forming part of this Amended Submission were prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is responsible for certifying their quality and reliability.

6. Advisory Assistance

6.1 Bangladesh was assisted in the preparation of the Submission by Dr. Harald Brekke a former member of the Commission.



MAP 1. Depiction of the Fixed Point defining the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

FP	Latitude (°N)	Longitude (°E)	Method
1	16°43' 28.7"	89°25' 54.3"	Delimitation line intersection

Table 1 Coordinates of the Fixed Point defining the Outer limits of the Continental Shelf of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. All coordinates are expressed in the WGS84 geodetic reference system.