
Translated from French

Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations

HR/cl

No. 69

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to transmit to him, in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the present partial submission relating to the continental shelf of the Kerguelen Islands and of the French overseas departments of the Antilles (Martinique and Guadeloupe).

On this occasion, France recalls the principles and objectives shared by the Antarctic Treaty and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as the importance of ensuring that the Antarctic system and the Convention work in harmony, thus ensuring the continuity of peaceful cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic region.

France also notes the relevant articles of the Convention - including article 77 thereof, which states, inter alia, that the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on any express proclamation - and recalls the decisions taken at the meeting of States parties to the Convention and the rules of the Commission.

United Nations Secretariat
Office of Legal Affairs
Division of Ocean Affairs and the
Law of the Sea
Commission on the Limits of
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Taking due account of the characteristics of the area located south of 60 degrees latitude south and of the particular legal and political status of Antarctica accorded by the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, including article IV thereof,

France notes that there are some areas adjoining Antarctica for which the limits of the continental shelf have yet to be established. Concerned States have the option either to provide the Commission with information on these areas, which the Commission would not consider as yet; or to make a partial submission which does not include these areas of the continental shelf and for which a submission might later be made, notwithstanding the provisions of Annex II, article 4, of the Convention concerning the 10-year period and the decisions regarding its application that were taken at the Eleventh Meeting of States parties thereto.

Therefore, in accordance with the Commission's regulations, France hereby makes a partial submission which does not include the areas of the continental shelf that adjoin Antarctica and for which a submission may later be made, notwithstanding the provisions of Annex II, article 4, of the Convention concerning the 10-year period and the decisions regarding its application that were taken at the Eleventh meeting of States parties thereto.

The Permanent Mission hereby requests that this note should be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, next to the section where the executive summary of the submission is posted in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Commission.

The Permanent Mission of France takes this opportunity to convey to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

[Seal]

(*Signed*) [Illegible]

New York, [illegible] February 2009

Attachments: 6 boxes