No.NY/PM/443/1/2009

August 31, 2009

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and with reference to the submission of the Norway to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on May 4, 2009 has the honor to express the following:

India recalls the principles and objectives shared by the Antarctic Treaty and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982 (Convention) and the importance of harmony between the Antarctic Treaty and the Convention and of the continuing cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic area.

In accordance with Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, India does not recognize any State’s right or claim to territorial sovereignty in the Antarctic area and consequently over the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the continent of Antarctica.

India acknowledges and supports Norway’s request that the Commission not take any action on the part of Norwegian submission relating to areas of the seabed and subsoil appurtenant to Antarctica.

India requests that this note may be circulated to the Member States and to the Commission.

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations avails of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

Secretary General of the United Nations,
New York
(Attn: Division for Ocean Affairs
and the Law of the Sea)