
Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations

New York, 7 October 2015

No. 132.61/RDCONU/A1/597/2015

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit to it, annexed herewith, note verbale No. 130/322/4035/122/2015 dated 17 September 2015, addressed to the United Nations Secretariat from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, regarding the dispute between the Republic of Angola and the Democratic Republic of the Congo on the issue of the limits of the continental shelf.

The Permanent Mission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea

Office of Legal Affairs

United Nations Secretariat

United Nations, New York

cc: Chairman of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

No. 130/322/4035/122/2015 of 17 September 2015

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat in New York and, referring to the agenda of the thirty-eighth session of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, a document issued as CLCS/L.39, has the honour to inform it that the Ministry:

1. Takes note of the aforementioned document which, in agenda item 15, provides for the Commission to consider the submission made by Angola pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
2. Recalls that this submission, which contains lateral lines drawn up unilaterally by Angola, continues to contravene UNCLOS article 7, paragraph 6, and article 77, paragraphs 1 and 2, and ignores the rights of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, as a coastal State party to the 1982 Convention, to exercise control over its territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental margin in their entirety;
3. Reiterates the position contained in its note verbale No. 130/093/2014 dated 11 April 2014, namely that it rejects any unilateral action whereby Angola would seek to define the maritime areas or delimit the outer continental shelf, and calls for the faithful implementation of the relevant provisions of international law, in particular of UNCLOS;
4. Requests the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf to take the aforementioned into account and, pursuant to paragraph 5 of Annex I of its rules of procedure, to prohibit consideration of the submission made by the Republic of Angola until the two States have settled their border dispute.

The Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to transmit the present communication to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and have it issued as a document in accordance with the internal procedures of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo thanks the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his prompt attention to this matter and takes this opportunity to convey to him the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Kinshasa [date illegible]
