

Translated from French

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora
Secretariat
Department of General Services
Directorate of Legal Affairs

Republic of the Congo
Unity-Work-Progress

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The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat, Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of the Legal Counsel, and, in reference to its communication No. CLOS.60.2012.LOS (continental shelf notification) dated 13 April 2021, on the submission by the Gabonese Republic to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has the honour to convey the following:

In section 5 of the executive summary of its submission for the extension of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, the Gabonese Republic states that the area of continental shelf to which its submission refers is not the subject of any dispute between the Gabonese Republic and any other State.

Contrary to that statement, the Republic of the Congo has reservations in respect of the submission of the Gabonese Republic, owing to the possible overlap of the southern part of the area to which the submission refers with the maritime areas of the Republic of the Congo and the area of the extension of the continental shelf beyond 200 miles identified by the Republic of the Congo in its preliminary information submitted to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 12 March 2009, complemented in 2017 by letter No. 0853/MID-CAB of 15 December 2017, to which is annexed official nautical chart No. 001, with a scale of 1:1,000,000.

The Republic of the Congo, therefore, requests that the Commission not consider the southern part of the submission of Gabon related to this overlap, pursuant to paragraph 10 of article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and paragraph 5 of annex 1 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, until an agreement is reached between the two States.

United Nations Secretariat
New York

The Republic of the Congo would appreciate it if the Commission would continue to consider the submission of Gabon as it relates to the area outside the contested area and is not against the Commission considering the rest of the Gabonese submission.

The Republic of the Congo would appreciate it if this note could be circulated to the members of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the States parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and the other States Members of the United Nations, and if it could also be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Diaspora takes this opportunity to convey to the United Nations Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

Brazzaville, 13 July 2021
