



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Agenda item 74 (a)

**Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea**

### **Letter dated 5 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman (see annex) regarding the unilateral action taken by the Government of the United Arab Emirates, as stipulated in the navigation declaration (No. 10/2018) issued by Ras Al Khaimah Ports on 7 May 2018.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman expresses its strong objection and reservation to the aforementioned declaration and any accompanying procedures therein, which are aimed at expanding the boundaries of Saqr port, in the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah, beyond the median line between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and creating anchoring areas, many of which are located in the territorial sea of the Sultanate of Oman.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be registered and circulated to Member States and issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a).

(Signed) Mohamed **Al Hassan**  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative



**Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Sultanate of Oman presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat and wishes to draw attention to a unilateral action taken by the United Arab Emirates. On 7 May 2018, Ras Al Khaimah Ports issued maritime notice No. 10/2018 expanding the boundaries of Saqr Port, in the Emirate of Ra's al-Khaymah, beyond the median line between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates, and creating anchorage areas many of which are located in the territorial sea of the Sultanate of Oman.

The Sultanate of Oman expresses its strong objection and reservation to that notice and the accompanying measures. Accordingly, it requests that the United Nations Secretariat circulate the present note verbale in accordance with the established practice of the United Nations. Its grounds for doing so are as follows:

- The maritime boundaries between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates in the area have not been demarcated and are currently under negotiation. Under article 15 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Arab Emirates is thus prohibited from extending its territorial sea beyond the median line. That obligation is an integral part of the international law of the sea and, in particular, the provisions governing the demarcation of maritime boundaries. The issuance of the notice therefore violates the provisions of article 15. The United Arab Emirates has previously committed to comply with that article, as is stated in article 14 of the land boundary agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates concerning the border sectors from the east of Uqaydat to Darah, which was signed on 22 June 2002 and has been deposited with the United Nations.
- Although the aforementioned notice is illegal, its content has been reproduced in other maritime notices, including Middle East Navigation Aids Service navigational warning No. 66/2018 of 31 May 2018; British preliminary notice to mariners No. 5400(P)/2018, which was issued in weekly notice No. 46 of 15 November 2018; and Pakistani preliminary notice to mariners No. 173(P)/2018, which appeared in weekly notice No. 46 of 17 November 2018. The Sultanate of Oman has informed the United Arab Emirates that it strongly objects to those actions and, for its part, rejects all the notices in which the content of the aforementioned notice has been reproduced.
- The aforementioned maritime notice represents a threat to the safety of maritime navigation owing to the overlapping and duplication of powers between the alleged anchorage area and the Omani anchorage area that was identified by the Sultanate of Oman in those waters a few years ago and published in Omani and British charts, including British Admiralty Chart No. 3714. The notice also constitutes an illegal act in that it allows anchorage in the Omani area, something that has led the Sultanate of Oman to establish its sovereignty over the area by directing ships to leave the Omani territorial sea. The disruption caused by the United Arab Emirates poses a threat to maritime navigation in the area, one that could endanger the safety of lives at sea.

In view of those points, and in order to enhance the safety of maritime navigation, the Sultanate of Oman acting through the United Nations, calls on all Member States to direct their flagged ships to ignore the illegal attempt by the United

Arab Emirates to impose its control over the Omani territorial sea and to direct those ships to refrain from anchoring in areas located in Omani waters. The Sultanate of Oman considers the present note to be an official document and requests that the United Nations Secretariat take the necessary steps to circulate it to the delegations of Member States.

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