



PERMANENT MISSION
OF ICELAND
to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to his communication of 31 March 2009, Ref.: CLCS.19.2009.LOS (Continental Shelf Notification), regarding receipt of a partial submission made by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has the honour to convey the following:

The Government of Iceland notes that the submission referred to above covers part of the continental shelf of Iceland in the Hatton-Rockall area.

According to paragraph 10 of article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the provisions of article 76 are without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, and according to article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, the actions of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.

According to Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in case of a dispute in the delimitation of the continental shelf between opposite or adjacent States or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes, submissions are subject to Annex I to the Rules of Procedure. Furthermore, it is stated that the actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States.

According to paragraph 5(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, and consistent with the aforementioned provisions, in cases where a land or maritime dispute exists, the Commission shall not consider and qualify a submission made by any of the States concerned in the dispute unless a prior consent has been given by all States that are parties to such a dispute.

H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
United Nations
New York

The Hatton-Rockall area, which is the subject of the submission referred to above, is part of the Icelandic continental shelf but is subject to overlapping claims by Denmark on behalf of the Faroe Islands, Ireland and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and is in dispute. In the view of the Government of Iceland, consideration and qualification of the submission by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf would prejudice the rights of Iceland over the continental shelf in this area. The Government therefore does not give its consent to the consideration and qualification of the submission by the Commission.

The Government of Iceland notes that the submission of Iceland to the Commission of 30 April 2009 is a partial submission in accordance with paragraph 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. Pursuant to that provision, a submission may be made by a coastal State for a portion of its continental shelf in order not to prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States in any other portion or portions of the continental shelf for which a submission may be made later, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to the Convention. In order not to prejudice questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States in the disputed Hatton-Rockall area, Iceland has not included this area in its submission and will make a separate submission for this area at a later stage.

The Government of Iceland notes in this connection that quadrilateral consultations are ongoing between the parties with a view to finding a solution to the dispute regarding the delimitation of the continental shelf in the Hatton-Rockall area.

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

Permanent Mission of Iceland
New York, 27 May 2009

