



SUBMISSION
by
Government of the Republic of Ghana
for the
**Establishment of the Outer Limits of the
Continental Shelf of Ghana**
pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

GHA-DOC-ES

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The present submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') is made by the Republic of Ghana ('Ghana') pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('the Convention') in support of the establishment by Ghana of the outer limits of the continental shelf that lies beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Ghana is measured (hereinafter referred to as 'the territorial sea baselines') in Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region and Ghana's Western Extended Continental Shelf Region.
- 1.2 Ghana is a West African coastal state with a population of 20,467,940, bordering the Gulf of Guinea along a 538 km long coastline between the Togolese Republic and the Republic of Cote d' Ivoire. The total land area including Lake Volta is 239,460 km².
Ghana is contracting party to the Convention having signed the Convention on 10th December 1982 and ratified it on 7th June 1983.
- 1.3 Under Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, as supplemented by the decisions of the Eleventh and Eighteen Meetings of the States Parties to the Convention respectively, regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to the Convention (SPLOS/72) and (SPLOS/183), a coastal State for which the Convention entered into force before 13 May 1999 is required to submit particulars of the outer limits of the continental shelf to the Commission, together with supporting scientific and technical data by 13 May 2009. This submission by Ghana satisfies that obligation.
- 1.4 Ghana has for the purposes of preparing this submission applied the relevant provisions of Article 76 of the Convention, the relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure and the recommendations contained in the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/11) adopted by the Commission on 13 May 1999 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Guidelines').
- 1.5 In accordance with the specifications of the Commission set out in Annex III to the Rules of Procedure and paragraphs 9.1.3 to 9.1.6 of the Guidelines, the submission of Ghana consists of three separate parts comprising an Executive Summary, a core analytical and descriptive part of the submission ('the Main Body'), and a part containing all required supporting scientific and technical data ('supporting scientific and technical data').
- 1.6 Ghana wishes to emphasise that this submission has been prepared notwithstanding significant challenges posed by technical capacity and financial resources. In this regard, Ghana has received technical assistance from the Commonwealth Secretariat (Economic and Legal Section) and the Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Hanover, Germany) during the preparation of the submission.

2.0 OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF OF GHANA

- 2.1 As provided for under paragraph 1 of Article 76 of the Convention, Ghana has a continental shelf comprising the seabed and subsoil of two submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial seas throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, up to the limits provided for in paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 or, to a distance of 200 M from the territorial sea baselines of Ghana where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend beyond that distance.
- 2.2 Paragraphs 4 to 6 of Article 76 of the Convention elaborate provisions by which a coastal State may establish the outer edge of its continental margin, and its extended continental shelf, wherever that margin extends beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines.
- 2.3 As set out in paragraph 7 of Article 76 of the Convention, a coastal State is to delineate the outer limits of the extended continental shelf by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points ('fixed points') defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude.
- 2.4 The data submitted by Ghana in support of the submission establish that the outer edge of the continental margin appurtenant to the relevant land territory of Ghana extends beyond 200 M measured from the territorial sea baselines of Ghana in two regions named in this submission 'the Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region' and the 'Western Extended Continental Shelf Region'.

3.0 PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED

- 3.1 For the purposes of this submission Ghana invoked paragraphs 4(b) and 7 of Article 76 of the Convention to support the submission delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baselines. Paragraphs 4 (a)(i) of Article 76 is also invoked in respect of fixed points as outlined in Section 5 of this Executive Summary.

4.0 EXISTING AND OUTSTANDING MARITIME BOUNDARIES

- 4.1 Ghana has overlapping maritime claims with adjacent States in the region, but has not signed any maritime boundary delimitation agreements with any of its neighbouring States to date.

5.0 ABSENCE OF DISPUTES

Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention provides that the actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts. The Commission has therefore adopted a practice, contained in Annex I to the Rules of Procedure that is intended to prevent the consideration of a submission in

respect of disputed continental shelf without the consent of the parties in dispute.

- 5.2 The ECOWAS member States, Republic of Benin, Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Ghana, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Republic of Togo held a meeting from 24th to 26th February 2009 in Accra. During this meeting, issues of the limit of adjacent and opposite maritime boundaries were discussed with the following result:

"Issues of the limit of adjacent/opposite boundaries shall continue to be discussed in a spirit of cooperation to arrive at a definite delimitation even after the presentation of the preliminary information /submission,

Member States would therefore write "no objection note" to the submission of their neighbouring States" (Appendix A of the Main Body: Minutes of Experts Meeting of ECOWAS member States on the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf held in Accra from 24th to 26th February 2009).

- 5.3 This submission of information to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of Ghana is without prejudice to delimitation of the maritime boundaries with the Republic of Togo, the Republic of Benin, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, and the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.
- 5.4 Further, in accordance with paragraph 2(b) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure, Ghana wishes to inform the Commission that in its view, the consideration of this submission will not prejudice matters relating to the determination of boundaries between Ghana and any other State(s).

6. DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF

- 6.1 This section deals with two extended continental shelf polygons, referred to in Ghana's submission as the 'Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region' and the 'Western Continental Shelf Region'.

6.2 Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region

Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf encloses an area of 9,387.8 km² beyond 200 nautical miles from the territorial sea baseline (Figure 1).

The Outer Limit of Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf is defined by five fixed points (Table 1), of which

- 1 (Point OL-GHA-5) is a point where the outer limit line joins to the 200 M from Nigeria's territorial sea baseline;
- 3 (Points OL-GHA-1, OL-GHA-2, OL-GHA-3) are points which are defined by the sediment thickness formula (Article 76, paragraph 4 (a)(i));
- 1 (Point OL-GHA-6) is a point where the extended continental shelf joins the 200 M line from Ghana's territorial sea baseline.

Table 1: Geographical coordinates of the Outer Limits of Ghana's Eastern Continental Shelf Region.

OL-Points	Latitude (N)	Longitude (E)	Article 76 criterion	Distance to next point (km)
OL-GHA-5	2°30'53.004"	3°01'24.519"	200 M	15.342
OL-GHA-1	2°26'20.730"	2°54'28.170"	(4)(a)(i)	76.001
OL-GHA-2	2°05'52.452"	2°18'52.878"	(4)(a)(i)	94.797
OL-GHA-3	2°20'11.442"	1°29'46.152"	(4)(a)(i)	111.113
OL-GHA-6	2°08'13.248"	0°31'01.695"	200 M	

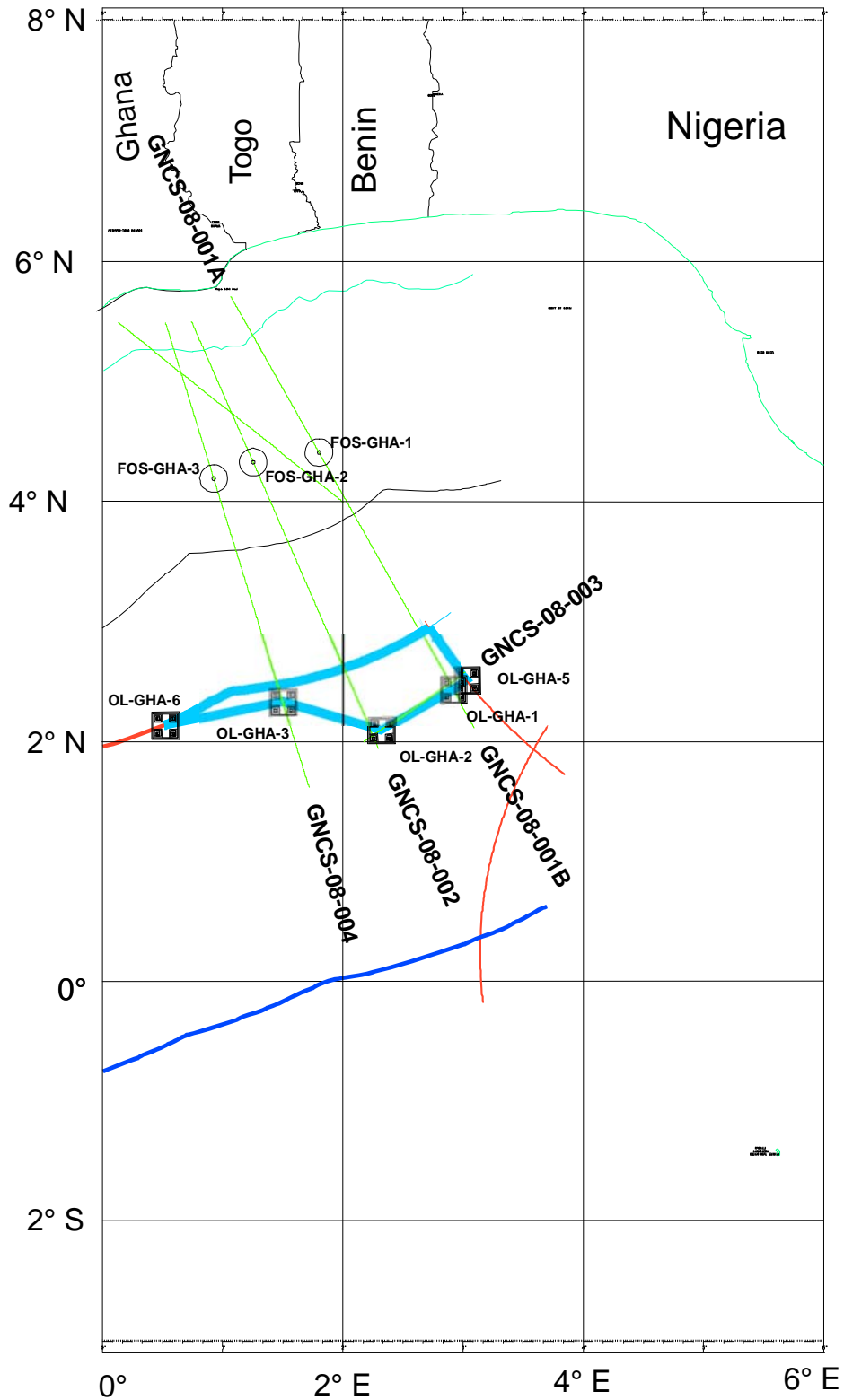


Figure 1: Location of the fixed Outer Limit Points of Ghana's Eastern Extended Continental Shelf Region.

5.3 Ghana's Western Extended Continental Shelf Region

Ghana's Western Extended Continental Shelf Region encloses an area of 4,741.8 km² beyond 200 M from the territorial sea baseline (Figure 2).

The Outer Limit of Ghana's Western Extended Continental Shelf Region is defined by three fixed points (Table 2), of which

- 1 (Point OL-GHA-7) is a point where the outer limit line joins to the line 200 M from Ghana's territorial sea baseline;
- 1 (Point OL-GHA-4) is a point which is defined by the sediment thickness formula (Article 76, paragraph 4 /a)(i);
- 1 (Point OL-GHA-8) is a point where the extended continental shelf joins to the equidistance line between Cote d' Ivoire and Ghana.

Table 2: Geographical coordinates of the Outer Limits of Ghana's Western Continental Shelf Region.

OL-Points	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Article 76 criterion	Distance to next point (km)
OL-GHA-7	1°28'55.733"	2°53'08.054"	200 M	110.909
OL-GHA-4	1°03'12.762"	3°47'11.640"	(4)(a)(i)	15.380
OL-GHA-8	1°04'32.208"	3°55'22.788"		

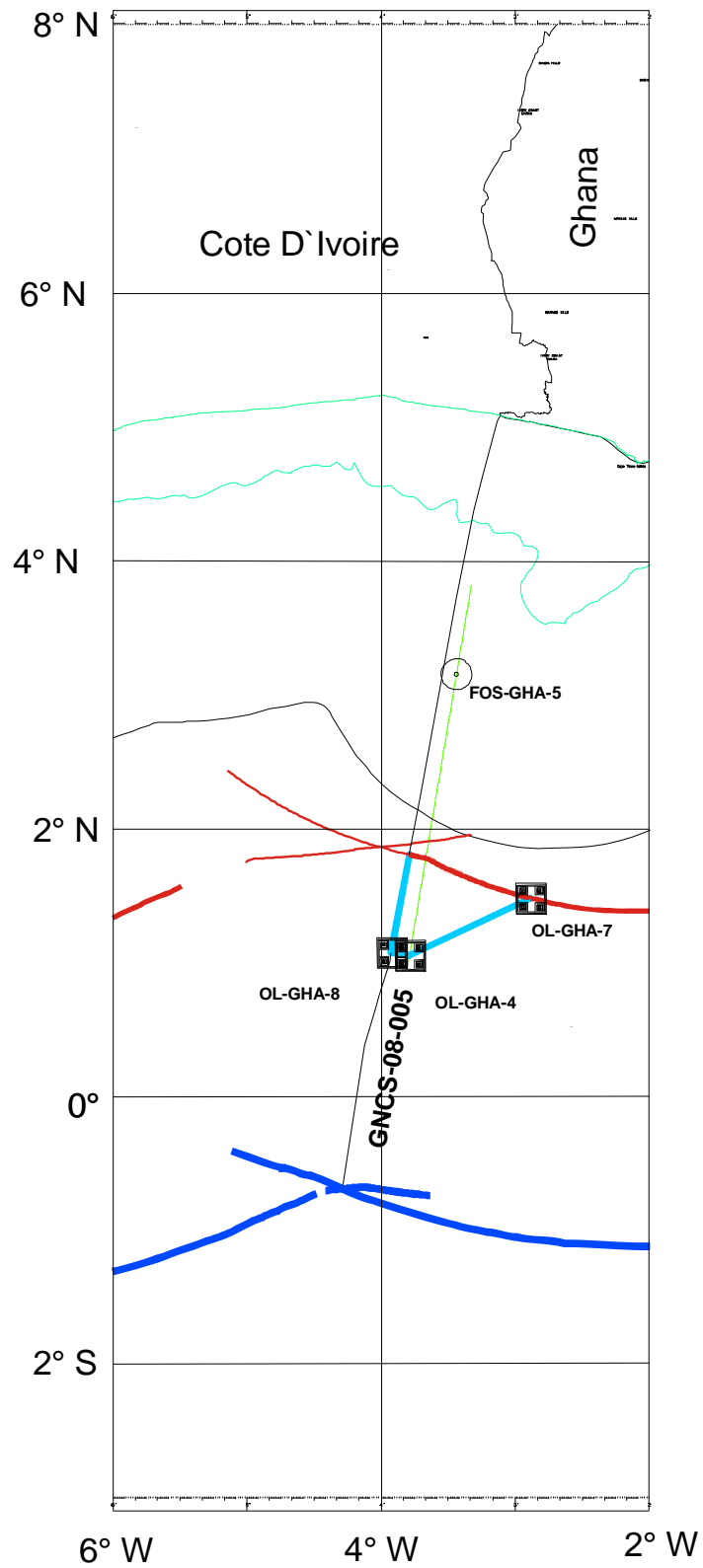


Figure 2: Location of the fixed Outer Limit Points of Ghana’s Western Extended Continental Shelf Region.

6 LIST OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS/CORPORATIONS, INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS SUBMISSION

1. Ministries

Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources

Ministry of Energy

Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Regional Integration

Ministry of Finance

Ministry of Justice and Attorney General's Department

Ministry of Defence

National Security

Office of the President

2. Departments/Corporations

Geological Survey Department

Survey Department

Ghana National Petroleum Corporation

Ghana Maritime Authority

3. Institutions

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology, Kumasi

University of Ghana, Legon

Regional Maritime University, Nungua

4. External Organisations

The Commonwealth Secretariat (Economic and Legal Section)

Federal Institute for Geosciences and Natural Resources (BGR, Germany)

7 COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO PROVIDED ADVICE ON THE SUBMISSION

Dr. Karl Hinz, ex-Commission member, was involved in advising the Government of Ghana.

