



In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful

No. 692

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and with reference to the communication No. M.Z.N.77.2010.LOS dated 25 March 2010 regarding the deposit by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia on 5 March 2010 of lists of geographical coordinates of points defining the baselines of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the Red Sea, Gulf of Aqaba and the Persian Gulf, and pursuant to the Note No. 1596 dated 22 December 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations, has the honor to inform that the Islamic Republic of Iran carefully studied the above-mentioned document and its annexes, and based on that examination, would like to state the following:

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its position as to the validity under customary international law of the Saudi baselines set out in the mentioned document; under relevant customary international law as codified in the 1958 Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone, and reaffirmed in the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea: "In localities where the coastline is deeply indented and cut into, or if there is a fringe of islands along the coast in its immediate vicinity, the method of straight baselines joining appropriate points may be employed in drawing the baseline from which the breadth of territorial sea is measured". However, "The drawing of such baselines must not depart to any appreciable extent from the general direction of the coast, and the sea areas lying within the lines must be sufficiently closely linked to the land domain to be subject to the regime of internal waters".

The Islamic Republic of Iran notes that a number of basepoints, particularly basepoints 3, 5, 6 and 8, identified by Saudi Arabia in defining the Saudi baselines in the Persian Gulf are located in the open waters, and therefore, contravene the relevant rules of international law of the sea as mentioned above.

Hence the Islamic Republic of Iran underlines that the method used by Saudi Arabia to define its baselines in the Persian Gulf is not in conformity with international law of the sea and stresses that any consequences arising from it would not be acceptable.



## Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests the Secretary General of the United Nations to have this note issued as a document of the United Nations in accordance with the established procedures of DOALOS.

The Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 14 August 2012

Secretary-General  
of the United Nations  
New York

