

*(Translated from French)*

**Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations**

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The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs at the United Nations Secretariat and has the honour to transmit the following information:

France notes that, on 7 September 2010, the Government of the Union of the Comoros deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a list of geographical coordinates of points delineating the archipelagic baselines from which the territorial sea of the Union of the Comoros is measured. The baselines form an irregular polygon "whose vertices are defined by the geographical coordinates of the outermost points of the islands of Grand Comore, Mohéli, Anjouan, Mayotte" (article 2 of the Decree) and by 13 drying reefs specified in the Decree, of which five are in Mayotte.

These documents, which appear on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the United Nations, imply that Mayotte falls under the sovereignty of the Union of the Comoros.

France believes that this deposit is not compatible with the status of Mayotte and is without legal effect.

France states that it has complete and full sovereignty over Mayotte. It believes that no other State has the right to assert a claim over the maritime areas adjacent to Mayotte.

The Government of the French Republic requests the Secretary-General to register this declaration and to publish it in accordance with established procedure.

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

(Seal of the French Republic)

New York, 23 December 2011