



S-GACIJ-13-044275

Bogotá, D.C., 1st November 2013

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to document M.Z.N.99.2013.LOS (Maritime Zone Notification) dated 11 October 2013 under the title "Circular Communications from the Division for the Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs".

In the aforementioned document, the Secretary-General of the United Nations communicated that on, 26 September 2013, pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the Republic of Nicaragua deposited a list of geographical coordinates of points defining the straight baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Nicaragua in the Caribbean Sea is measured, as contained in Decree No. 33-2013 of 19 August 2013.

The Republic of Colombia is not a Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Accordingly, the information submitted by Nicaragua pursuant to the Convention, and any other provision or procedure invoked under the Convention, are not opposable to Colombia.

The Republic of Colombia wishes to inform the United Nations and its Member States that the straight baselines now claimed by Nicaragua are wholly contrary to international law.

His Excellency
BAN-KI MOON
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York



The straight baselines notified by Nicaragua do not relate to a coastline that is deeply indented and cut into or to a fringe of islands along the coast; they depart from the general direction of the coastline; and the sea areas lying within the lines are not sufficiently linked to the land domain to be subject to the regime of internal waters. They therefore lacking any legal basis, and they cannot be deemed to be valid baselines from which the breadth of Nicaragua's marine and submarine areas can be measured under international law.

Colombia will continue to exercise its rights in the Caribbean in conformity with international law. However, it does not recognise the legality or legal value of any unilateral measures adopted by Nicaragua that are not in accordance with international law or that are inconsistent with Nicaragua's previously expressed positions.

Please accept the assurances of my highest consideration,



MARIA ANGELA HOLGUIN CUELLAR
Minister of Foreign Affairs