



In the name of God, the most Compassionate, the most Merciful

No. 3577

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 has the honor to advise that the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran has carefully studied the Government of Kuwait's "Decree No. 317 year 2014 Concerning the Delimitation of the Marine Areas Pertaining to the State of Kuwait and its amendment" published in Law of the Sea Bulletin No.89, and would like to state that certain provisions of this Decree are inconsistent with international law and, as such, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its rights, as well as the rights of its nationals, in that regard.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the State of Kuwait, by this Decree, has claimed an extended area for its Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf in a manner totally inconsistent with the relevant provisions of customary international law of the sea governing the delimitation of the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf, which is unacceptable for the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Pursuant to the bilateral negotiations on the delimitations of boundaries of their Exclusive Economic Zones and Continental Shelf, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the State of Kuwait agreed on the main basis of a method to delimit the maritime boundaries. The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that the above-mentioned Decree and the map annexed thereto are totally inconsistent with the records of the bilateral negotiations and the understandings reached by the delegations of the two sides and may imperil the future of the bilateral negotiations over the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.

While emphasizing the necessity of the application of the basic provisions of customary international law of the sea and the prevailing practice as well as the precedent and record of the negotiations among countries on the delimitation of Exclusive Economic Zone and continental shelf, the Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its objection to the new claims made by the State of Kuwait based on the aforementioned Decree. The Islamic Republic of Iran does not recognize any rights and jurisdictions emanating from this Decree and considers them having no effect on future bilateral negotiations.

The Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to emphasize that this objection shall be viewed as an expression of its official position on the aforementioned Decree, clarifying



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the status governing the waters situated between the two countries; and the provisions of customary international law of the sea regarding the delimitation of Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf.

Based on their friendly bilateral relations, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its readiness to conduct bilateral negotiations with the State of Kuwait in order to delimit its maritime boundaries.

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran requests that this Note be circulated by the United Nations as part of the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

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

New York, 21 December 2017



H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres
Secretary-General
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CC:
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