

संयुक्त राष्ट्र स्थित भारत का स्थायी मिशन न्यूयॉर्क

PERMANENT MISSION OF INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS NEW YORK

PM/NY/443/4/2021

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and with reference to the circular note CLCS.55.2011.LOS. Add.1 (Continental Shelf Notification) of 27 October 2020, concerning the receipt of an amendment to the submission made by the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Commission on the Limits of Continental Shelf ("the Commission), has the honor to express the following position of the Government of the Republic of India with regard to the Bangladesh's amended submission.

- 2. It may be recalled that in response to the Indian Submission to the CLCS of 14 May 2009, the Government of Bangladesh observed that given the presence of a dispute between Bangladesh and India concerning entitlement to the parts of the continental shelf in the Bay of Bengal claimed by India in its submission, the Commission may not "consider and qualify" the submission made by India without the "prior consent given by all States that are parties to such a dispute".
- 3. The Government of the Republic of India wishes to reiterate its position as mentioned in Note Verbale No. PM/NY/443/1/2017 dated 3 August 2017 on the new base points of Bangladesh which has resulted in the seaward shift of Bangladesh's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and consequently encroaches into the Indian EEZ in the Grey area recognized by the Arbitration Tribunal. In this regard, Bangladesh has failed to highlight the Grey area issue in their amended submission.
- 4. The amended Executive Summary indicates the Bangladesh-India delimitation line in Map 1. However, in the absence of any further information or clarification in the amended Executive Summary, it is difficult to understand whether the bearing of this delimitation line matches with the bearing of the delimitation line as contained in the Arbitration Tribunal award.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations New York

(Attn: Division for Ocean Affairs

and the Law of the Sea) Room No. DC2-0450 Fax: (212) 963 5847

- 5. The Government of India has the honor to further state that Bangladesh in its amended submission has reported that outer limits of the continental shelf presented in this amended submission have been adjusted to give effect to the binding maritime boundary delimitations established in the Bangladesh/Myanmar Judgement and the Bangladesh/India Award.
- 6. According to Rule 46 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, in case of a dispute in delimitation of the continental shelf between opposite or adjacent States or in other cases of unresolved land or maritime disputes, submissions are subject to Annex I to the Rules of procedure. Furthermore, it is stated that the actions of the Commission shall not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between States.
- 7. The consideration and qualification by the Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf of the amended submission by Bangladesh would prejudice the rights of India over the parts of the continental shelf. Therefore, with reference to the paragraph 5(a) of Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the Government of the Republic of India thus requests the Commission not to "consider and qualify" the amended submission made by Bangladesh.
- 8. The Permanent Mission of India requests that this Note Verbale be circulated to the members of the Commission and Member States of the UN, and be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Secretariat of the UN.
- 9. The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations avails of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



16 April 2021