



Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF IN REGARD TO THE SUBMISSION MADE BY BARBADOS ON 8 MAY 2008¹

Recommendations prepared by the Subcommittee established for the consideration
of the Submission made by Barbados

Adopted by the Subcommittee on 6 April 2010, and submitted to the Commission on
the Limits of the Continental Shelf for consideration and approval by the Commission.

Adopted by the Commission after amendment on 15 April 2010

¹ The aim of this Summary is to provide information which is not of confidential or propriety nature in order to facilitate the function of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in accordance with CLCS/40/Rev.1, Annex III, Section V, Rule 11.3. This Summary is based on excerpts of the Recommendations and may refer to material not necessarily included either in the full Recommendations or this Summary.

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I. INTRODUCTION

- 1 On 8 May 2008, Barbados submitted through the Secretary-General of the United Nations to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Commission”), in accordance with Article 76, paragraph 8 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 (“the Convention”), information on the limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. The Convention entered into force for Barbados on 16 November 1994.

II. GENERAL PRINCIPLES ON WHICH THESE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE BASED

- 2 The Recommendations of the Commission are based on the scientific and technical data and other material provided by Barbados in relation to the implementation of article 76. The Recommendations of the Commission only deal with issues related to article 76 and Annex II to the Convention and are without prejudice to matters relating to delimitation between States, or application of other parts of the Convention or any other treaties.

III. GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION

- 3 The island of Barbados is the sub-aerial expression of the Barbados Accretionary Prism (BAP) complex, formed by subduction of Atlantic Plate oceanic lithosphere beneath the overriding Caribbean Plate.
- 4 The Tiburon Rise which is adjoined to the prism over the majority of its length and is effectively sutured onto it, is a west northwest - east southeast trending elevated seafloor feature, which shoals up to 1500 m above the deep ocean floor. To the north of the Tiburon Rise is the Barracuda Ridge, an elongate highland rising up to as much as 1900 m above the deep sea floor. The Barracuda Ridge also trends in an approximately west northwest - east southeast direction. The Barracuda Ridge is however, not a part of the continental margin of Barbados, and is separated from the main landmass by the deep ocean floor.

IV. NOTES VERBALES SUBMITTED BY OTHER STATES

- 5 In its note verbale No. 9509 dated 6 August 2008 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Suriname, Suriname informed the Secretary-General that “it is the position of the Government of the Republic of Suriname that the Submission made by Barbados and any recommendations by the Commission are without prejudice to any future Submission made by Suriname with respect to the continental shelf in the Atlantic Ocean and the delimitation of the continental shelf between Suriname and its neighbouring States in the area referred to in the Barbadian Executive Summary as the Southern Area”. The recommendations of the Commission relating to Barbados only deal with the outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados in this region and shall not prejudice any bilateral delimitation issues between States.
- 6 In its note verbale No 173 dated 11 August 2008 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations, Trinidad and Tobago informed the Secretary General that:

“the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago wishes to put the Commission on notice that in its proposed Submission, there will be areas of potential overlapping entitlements in respect of the continental shelf beyond 200 M with certain neighbouring coastal states, including Barbados. Without prejudice to such position, Trinidad and Tobago would have no objection to the Barbados Submission. However, Trinidad and Tobago’s non-objection to the Barbados Submission is inextricably related to the reservation of all of its rights in respect of its own Submission.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago takes the position that the Convention to which the two States are parties must be allowed to work. The Commission will determine whether any coastal State satisfies the criteria stipulated in Article 76 of UNCLOS for the extension of its continental shelf jurisdiction beyond 200 M. Furthermore, it is important to advance the work of the Commission in establishing where national jurisdiction ends and international jurisdiction begins.”

It is reiterated, in relation to the above note verbale from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, that the recommendations of the Commission relating to Barbados only deal with the outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados and shall not prejudice any bilateral delimitation issues between States.

- 7 In its note verbale Ref. No.: 00766 dated 9 September 2008 from the Ministry of the People’s Power for Foreign Affairs of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Venezuela indicated that “...in accordance with customary international law and irrespective of the fact that it is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, (Venezuela) has rights over the continental shelf in the area referred to in the summary of Barbados as the “southern area” and “in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (to which Barbados is a party) and the rules of procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, the actions of the Commission should not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of boundaries between the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and its neighbouring States in the Atlantic Ocean.” Furthermore, “the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reserves all of its rights pursuant to international law, including the right to make future objections and comments regarding the Submission of Barbados.”
- 8 The above note verbale from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was received after the presentation of the Submission before the Commission on 26 August 2008. The Subcommission therefore requested the Delegation of Barbados to provide its comments, if any, on this note verbale. The Delegation addressed this issue in its meeting with the subcommission on 10 August 2009. On that occasion, Barbados observed that “Venezuela has not objected to the consideration by the Commission of Barbados’ Submission”.
- 9 It is reiterated that, in relation to the above note verbale from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the recommendations of the Commission relating to

Barbados only deal with the outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados and shall not prejudice any bilateral delimitation issues between States.

- 10 The Commission took note of the contents of the three notes verbales referred to above from the Republic of Suriname, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and the views of Barbados, and in accordance with its Rules of Procedure, proceeded to consider the submission and make recommendations regarding the submission made by Barbados.

V. SUBMERGED PROLONGATION OF THE LANDMASS AND ENTITLEMENT TO THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND 200 M

- 11 From a morphological point of view, the seabed features in the vicinity of the Barbados submerged prolongation, namely the “Accretionary Front” and the “Tiburón Rise”, can be considered as natural prolongations of the Barbados landmass.
- 12 The outer edge of the continental margin, established from the foot of the continental slope of Barbados by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i), extends beyond the 200 M limits of Barbados. On this basis, the Commission recognises the legal entitlement of Barbados to delineate continental shelf beyond its 200 M limits.

VI. THE DETERMINATION OF THE FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE

- 13 The outer deformation front of the Barbados Accretionary Prism (BAP) and the Tiburón Rise are the morphological features where Barbados conducted its analyses in search of the base and the foot of the continental slope.
- 14 The Subcommittee agreed with the final locations of FOS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 included in the Submission. However, it did not agree with the methodology used in the Submission to determine the critical FOS points, based on evidence to the contrary. The Subcommittee was of the view that these FOS points could be determined on the basis of the general rule (maximum change in the gradient).
- 15 The Subcommittee was not in agreement with the proposal of Barbados to relocate the position of the FOS 10 more oceanward to a new location 10B.

VII. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OUTER EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN

- 16 The outer edge of the continental margin of Barbados beyond 200 M is based on sediment thickness points established from the foot of the continental slope by applying the provisions of article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i). Based on its consideration of the technical and scientific documentation contained in the Submission of 8 May 2008 and the information provided by the Delegation in its communications of 17 July 2009, 12 August 2009, 14 August 2009, and 8 February 2010, the Subcommittee is in agreement with the methodology adopted by Barbados for the determination of the one percent sediment thickness points as well as with the locations of 12 out of the 13 points provided by Barbados in its Submission. The Commission recommends that these 12 points are used as the basis for delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf in this region.

VIII. THE DELINEATION OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

- 17 The outer limits of the continental shelf should be based on the established outer edge of the continental margin, taking into consideration the constraints contained in article 76, paragraphs 5 and 6. The Subcommission agrees in general with the way Barbados has applied the constraint line constructed by the application of the distance constraint contained in article 76, paragraph 5.

IX. THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

- 18 The Subcommission agreed with the determination of the fixed points listed in Annex I, establishing the outer limit of the continental shelf from fixed points FP 1 to 73 and at fixed point FP 75. The Commission recommends that the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados be conducted in accordance with article 76, paragraph 7, by straight lines not exceeding 60 M in length, connecting fixed points, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude. The establishment of the final outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados may depend on delimitation between States. The Commission recommends, taking into consideration article 9 of Annex II, that Barbados proceeds to delineate the outer limits of the continental shelf on the basis of:
- (i) the outer edge of the continental margin referred to in paragraph 16;
 - (ii) the Commission's views on the outer limits of the continental shelf of Barbados as referred to in paragraphs 17 and 18; and
 - (iii) the provisions of article 76, paragraphs 7, 8, 9 and 10.

ANNEX I

TABLE OF COORDINATES AND OTHER INFORMATION RELATED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE OUTER EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN AND THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF BEYOND 200 M

Outer Limit of the Continental Shelf Point					Outer Edge of the Continental Margin Point ID	Corresponding Foot of Slope Point		
Point ID	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)	Point origin	Distance to next point (M)		Point ID	Latitude (N)	Longitude (W)
FP1	11.2307840	54.6281660	1 % line	20.785	GP01	FOS-3	11.40052063	57.47722337
FP2	11.5456000	54.4778900	1 % line	48.269	GP02	FOS-4	11.72943800	57.44219690
FP3	12.1304260	55.0440520	1 % line	39.700	GP03	FOS-5	12.10297229	57.47722337
FP4	12.6414900	55.4763000	1 % line	38.519	GP04	FOS-5	12.10297229	57.47722337
FP5	13.2039300	55.7978200	1 % line	39.678	GP05	FOS-6	12.76798311	57.57691404
FP6	13.4243687	56.0133088	200M	18.230				
FP7	13.4406138	56.0146065	200M	1.000				
FP8	13.4568514	56.0159848	200M	1.000				
FP9	13.4730811	56.0174440	200M	1.000				
FP10	13.4893026	56.0189837	200M	1.000				
FP11	13.5055154	56.0206040	200M	1.000				
FP12	13.5217193	56.0223048	200M	1.000				
FP13	13.5379137	56.0240862	200M	1.000				
FP14	13.5540983	56.0259481	200M	1.000				
FP15	13.5702728	56.0278903	200M	1.000				
FP16	13.5864367	56.0299130	200M	1.000				
FP17	13.6025897	56.0320160	200M	1.000				
FP18	13.6187314	56.0341992	200M	1.000				
FP19	13.6348614	56.0364628	200M	1.000				
FP20	13.6509794	56.0388065	200M	1.000				
FP21	13.6670848	56.0412303	200M	1.000				
FP22	13.6831775	56.0437341	200M	1.000				
FP23	13.6992570	56.0463180	200M	1.000				
FP24	13.7153228	56.0489819	200M	1.000				
FP25	13.7313747	56.0517255	200M	1.000				
FP26	13.7474123	56.0545491	200M	1.000				
FP27	13.7634351	56.0574523	200M	1.000				
FP28	13.7794434	56.0604322	200M	1.000				
FP29	13.7954355	56.0634955	200M	1.000				
FP30	13.8114123	56.0666356	200M	1.000				
FP31	13.8273729	56.0698556	200M	1.000				
FP32	13.8433164	56.0731569	200M	1.000				
FP33	13.8592429	56.0765375	200M	1.000				
FP34	13.8751531	56.0799925	200M	1.000				
FP35	13.8910496	56.0835075	200M	1.000				
FP36	13.9069298	56.0870937	200M	1.000				
FP37	13.9227917	56.0907588	200M	1.000				
FP38	13.9386349	56.0945029	200M	1.000				
FP39	13.9544590	56.0983259	200M	1.000				
FP40	13.9702636	56.1022276	200M	1.000				

FP41	13.9860485	56.1062079	200M	1.000				
FP42	14.0018132	56.1102668	200M	1.000				
FP43	14.0175573	56.1144041	200M	1.000				
FP44	14.0332805	56.1186199	200M	1.000				
FP45	14.0489824	56.1229139	200M	1.000				
FP46	14.0646627	56.1272860	200M	1.000				
FP47	14.0803209	56.1317362	200M	1.000				
FP48	14.0959567	56.1362644	200M	1.000				
FP49	14.1115698	56.1408703	200M	1.000				
FP50	14.1271598	56.1455541	200M	1.000				
FP51	14.1427263	56.1503155	200M	1.000				
FP52	14.1582689	56.1551544	200M	1.000				
FP53	14.1737871	56.1600713	200M	1.000				
FP54	14.1892802	56.1650672	200M	1.000				
FP55	14.2047484	56.1701403	200M	1.000				
FP56	14.2201912	56.1752905	200M	1.000				
FP57	14.2356083	56.1805176	200M	1.000				
FP58	14.2509994	56.1858215	200M	1.000				
FP59	14.2663641	56.1912021	200M	1.000				
FP60	14.2817020	56.1966591	200M	1.000				
FP61	14.2970128	56.2021926	200M	1.000				
FP62	14.3122961	56.2078024	200M	1.000				
FP63	14.3275515	56.2134884	200M	1.000				
FP64	14.3427788	56.2192504	200M	1.000				
FP65	14.3579775	56.2250882	200M	1.000				
FP66	14.3731473	56.2310019	200M	1.000				
FP67	14.3765290	56.2323277	200M	31.476				
FP68	14.8080030	55.9218750	1 % line	55.291	GP06	FOS-9	14.96511590	57.35466176
FP69	15.2591200	55.0904300	1 % line	25.234	GP07	FOS-9	14.96511590	57.35466176
FP70	15.5502330	55.4058330	1 % line	31.067	GP08	FOS-10	15.13712357	57.36446077
FP71	15.5691310	55.9418690	1 % line	26.875	GP09	FOS-10	15.13712357	57.36446077
FP72	15.5437140	56.4051390	1 % line	59.656	GP10	FOS-10	15.13712357	57.36446077
FP73	16.5415220	56.3692530	1 % line	N/A	GP11	FOS-10	15.13712357	57.36446077
		See paras 16 and 18			GP12			
FP75	16.6921060	56.3371310	1 % line	N/A	GP13	FOS-10	15.13712357	57.36446077