



# Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation

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June 25, 2025

His Excellency Mr. Antonio Guterres  
Secretary General of the United Nations  
United Nations Headquarters  
New York

Excellency,

I have the honour to refer to the Statement by the Chair of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf of April 4, 2025 (CLCS/63/2), a copy of which is posted on the webpage of the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations.

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana received with great disappointment the news that the Commission had reached a decision not to consider our submission made on September 6, 2011. In accordance with para. 60 of the Statement, it decided that:

*60. In accordance with its practice, the Commission established these subcommissions after taking note of the continued disputes concerning the submissions placed earlier in the queue, namely those made by: ...; Guyana; and ...<sup>34</sup> The status of these submissions would be reviewed by the Commission again at the time of the future establishment of new subcommissions.*

The Commission further elaborated in a footnote that:

*<sup>34</sup> In reviewing the status of these submissions, the Commission took note of communications that had been received after the presentation of these submissions to the plenary, namely (i) for the submission made by Guyana: a communication from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela dated 31 January 2024 and a communication from Guyana dated 12 April 2024; ...*

The Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana wishes to recall that its Submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf made on September 6, 2011, was considered during the Twenty-ninth session held between March 19 and April 27, 2012. The submission was presented to the Commission on April 11, 2012, by Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Head of Delegation. This presentation was preceded by a letter from Venezuela dated March 9, 2012, and a letter from Guyana dated April 4, 2012. The initial consideration of the submission taking into account its Executive Summary, both letters, and the presentation made by the delegation, led the Commission to decide, in accordance with the Statement by the Chair of the Commission of April 30, 2012 (CLCS/74), that:

*42. The Commission then continued its meeting in private. Addressing the modalities for the consideration of the submission and taking into account the communications referred to above and the presentation made by the delegation, the Commission decided that, pursuant to article 5 of annex II to the Convention and rule 42 of the Rules of Procedure, the submission would be addressed by a subcommission to be established in accordance with rule 51, paragraph 4 ter, of the Rules of Procedure, at a future session. The Commission also decided that it would revert to the consideration of the submission at the plenary level when the submission was next in line for consideration as queued in the order in which it was received.*

It is the view of our Government that these two decisions: *the submission would be addressed by a subcommission* in 2012; and then not to consider it *after taking note of the continued disputes concerning the submissions* in 2025, not only contradict one another but they are demonstrably also not consistent with the practice of the Commission.

The practice of the Commission relating to paragraph 5 (a) of Annex I to its Rules of Procedure refers to disputes among States Parties as per its own paragraph 60 of the latest Statement of April 4, 2025:

Myanmar; Yemen, in respect of south-east of Socotra Island; the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in respect of the Hatton-Rockall area; Ireland, in respect of the Hatton-Rockall area; Fiji; Malaysia and Viet Nam, jointly, in respect of the southern part of the South China Sea; Viet Nam, in respect of the North Area; and the United Kingdom, in respect of the Falkland Islands and of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands; Maldives; Denmark, in respect of the Faroe-Rockall Plateau Region; Bangladesh; Guyana; and Gabon

The footnote contained in the Statement of April 4, 2025, refers only the two most recent letters submitted by Venezuela dated January 31, 2024, and by Guyana, March 12, 2024, but it provides no rationale for such a fundamental change of decision.

In its latest correspondence of January 31, 2024, Venezuela:

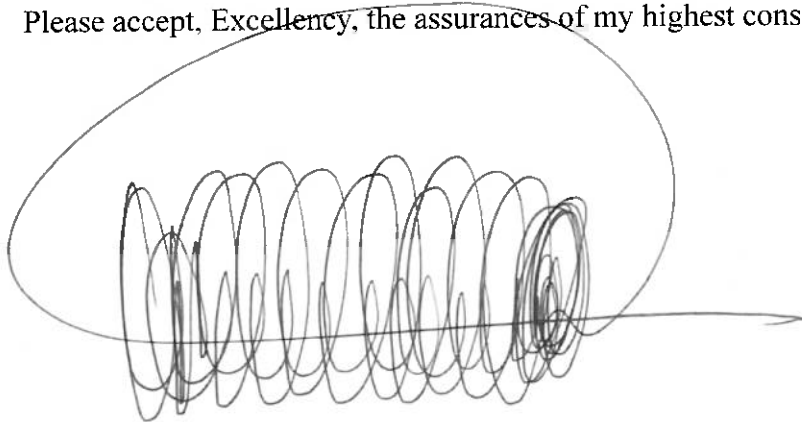
- acknowledged that it is not a State party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and, consequently, it is not bound by its provisions and implementation;
- Invokes the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS as a document with the character of international customary law, which is not the case;
- incorrectly invokes rights under international customary law that State practice and the international jurisprudence have not recognised; and
- refers to Rule 46 of the Rules of the Rules of Procedure of the CLCS under the repeated unfounded allegation that there is a "territorial dispute".

The decision made by the Commission is a legal decision. It is not a scientific and technical decision. We feel that a decision of this magnitude by the Commission requires further examination and clarification.

In view of the delicate nature and profound implications on the international law of the sea relating to this decision, the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana requests an opportunity to make its views known to the Commission in a presentation and engage in an exchange of views during its next plenary meeting to be held during its sixty-fourth session between July and August 2025.

I kindly request, Secretary-General, that this communication be given due publicity to Member States and to the Commission on the Continental Shelf.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a series of overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hugh Hilton Todd  
Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation  
Co-operative Republic of Guyana