



Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Submission made in accordance with the Statement of Understanding adopted by the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, on 29 August 1980, contained in Annex II to the Final Act of the Conference, and under paragraph 8 of article 76 of the United Nations Convention of the Law of Sea and article 3 of Annex II of the Convention.

CONTINENTAL SHELF SUBMISSION OF SRI LANKA

PART I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





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1 INTRODUCTION

- [1] The Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka (Sri Lanka) is a State in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal (Figure 1). Sri Lanka signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter the Convention) on 10 December 1982, the day it was opened for signature, and ratified it on 19 July 1994.
- [2] The information contained herein is submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter the Commission) under paragraph 8 of article 76 of the Convention to be considered under article 3 of Annex II to the Convention.
- [3] This submission is made in respect to the area of the Bengal Fan pursuant to Annex II of the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (hereinafter referred to as the Statement of Understanding) adopted by the Conference on 29 August 1980. This Statement of Understanding is incorporated in the Convention through reference in paragraph 1(a) of article 3 of Annex II thereof. Accordingly, this submission relates to the delineation of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Sri Lanka by the specific method set forth in the Statement of Understanding.

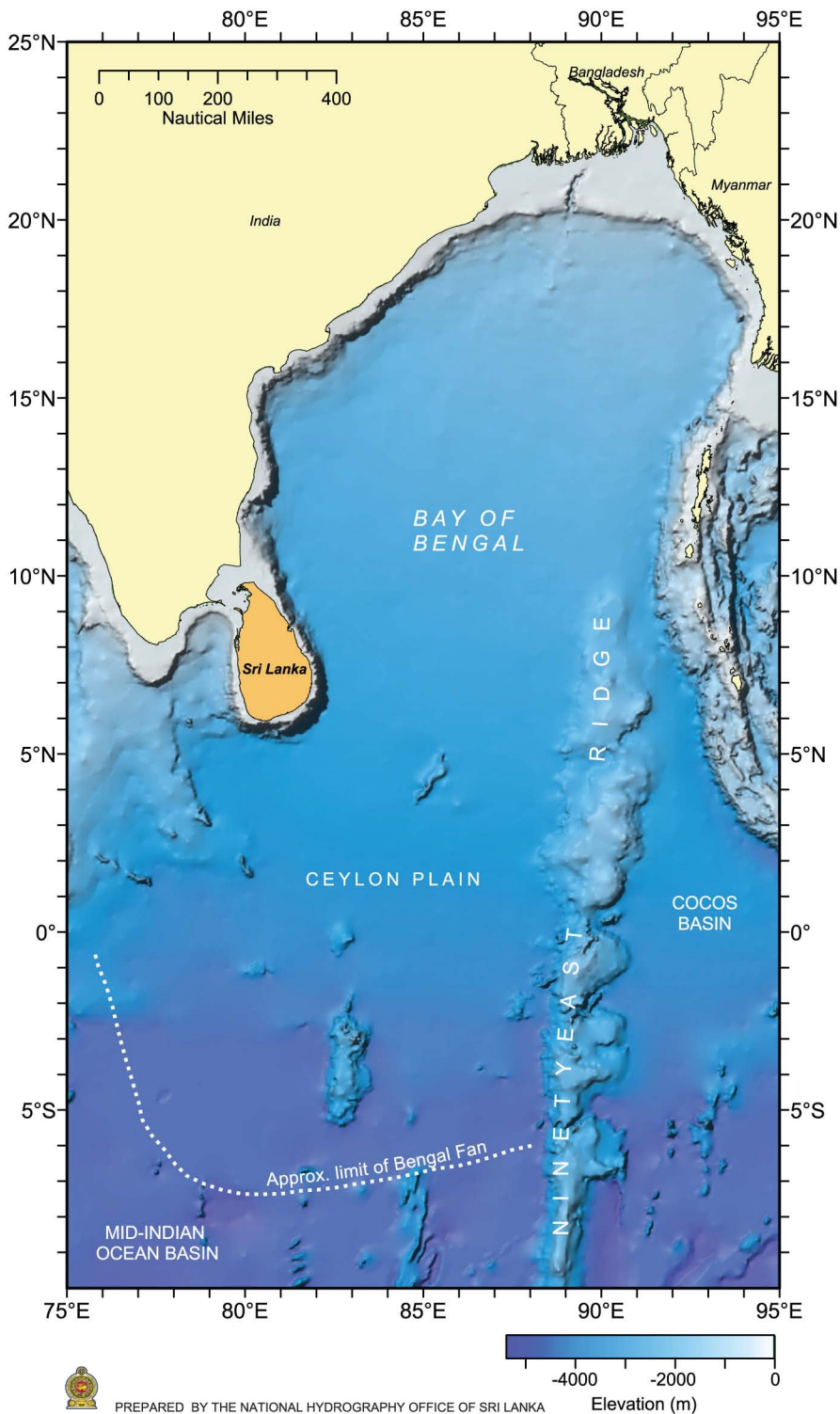


Figure 1. Map of the region showing approximate extent of the Bengal Fan.

2 THE STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

- [1] The Statement of Understanding in Annex II of the Final Act of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea is reproduced in Appendix 1 of the Executive Summary.
- [2] Sri Lanka's continental margin is the primary concern of the Statement of Understanding.
- [3] Sri Lanka's continental margin displays the special geological and morphological characteristics described in the Statement of Understanding. The morphology of Sri Lanka's continental margin is characterised by a very narrow shelf, a very steep slope and an extensive rise. (See Figure 2A and 2B).
- [4] Sri Lanka has established the outer limits of its continental shelf in accordance with the method specified in the Statement of Understanding, namely by straight lines not exceeding 60 nautical miles (M) in length connecting fixed points, defined by latitude and longitude, at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rock is not less than 1 kilometre.

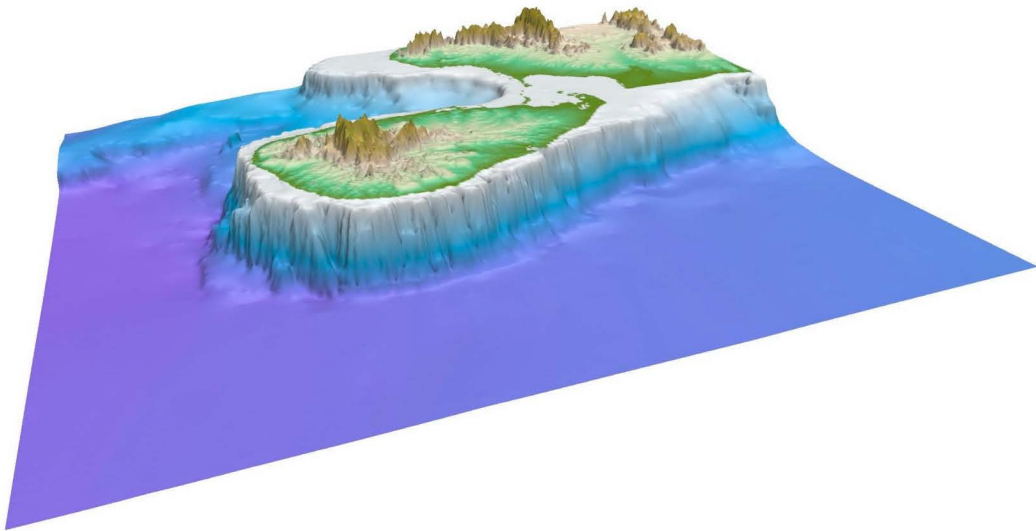


Figure 2. (A)

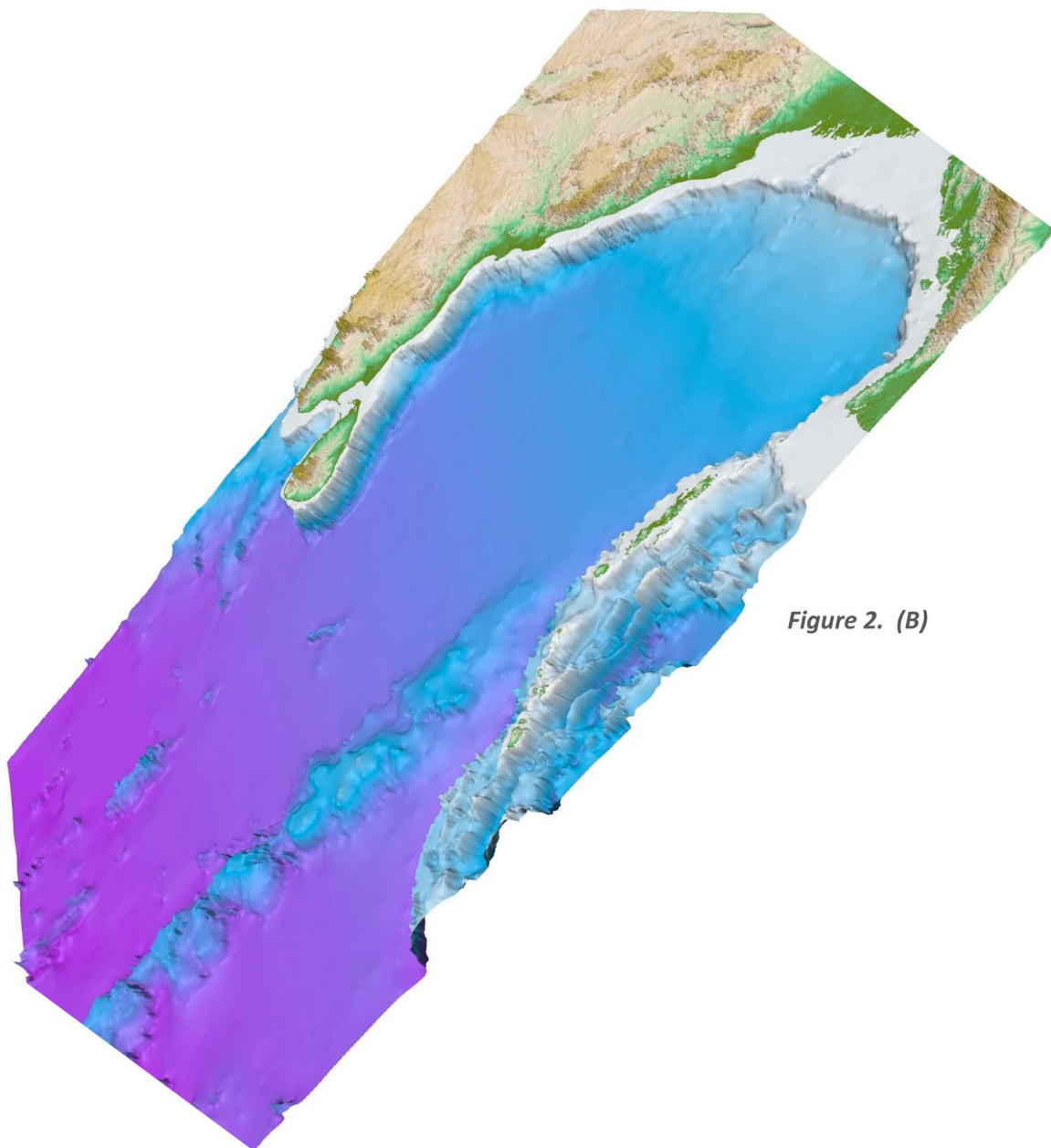


Figure 2. (B)

Figure 2. Morphology of Sri Lanka's continental margin is characterised by a very narrow shelf, a very steep slope, and an extensive rise. (A) shows the morphology of Sri Lanka. This image is 20:1 exaggerated view developed using bathymetric data obtained from ETOPO1 Global Grid and (B) is the region showing the key features of the Bay of Bengal and the Bengal Fan.



3 ABSENCE OF DISPUTES

- [1] Sri Lanka has no pending maritime boundary disputes with neighbouring States.
- [2] Sri Lanka has delimited its maritime boundaries with neighbouring States within 200M from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured through the following Agreements concluded respectively with India and with India and the Maldives.
1. Agreement between India and Sri Lanka on the Boundary in Historic Waters between the two Countries and related Matters signed on 28 June 1974
 2. Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on the Maritime Boundary between the two Countries in the Gulf of Mannar and the Bay of Bengal and Related Matters signed on 23 March 1976.
 3. Agreement between Sri Lanka, India and Maldives concerning the determination of the Trijunction Point between the three Countries in the Gulf of Mannar signed on 31 July 1976.
 4. Supplementary Agreement between Sri Lanka and India on the Extension of the Maritime Boundary between the two Countries in the Gulf of Mannar from Position 13 m to the Trijunction Point between Sri Lanka, India and Maldives (Point T) signed on 22 November 1976.
- [3] Sri Lanka has not concluded any agreement on the delimitation of the continental shelf beyond 200M from the baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured. This submission is made, and in accordance with Article 76(10) of the Convention, the recommendations of the Commission will be, without prejudice to the delimitation of maritime boundaries between States with opposite or adjacent coasts.
- [4] Sri Lanka has held consultations with India concerning Sri Lanka's submission to the Commission. During these consultations, it was decided that both sides would file their respective submissions before the Commission without prejudice to any future bilateral agreement.
- [5] In accordance with paragraph 2(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, Sri Lanka wishes to inform the Commission that there is no dispute relating to the present submission. Sri Lanka provides the Commission with the assurance that its submission can be treated without prejudice to issues related to the delimitation of the continental shelf between neighbouring States.



- [6] Sri Lanka reiterates its position in respect of Myanmar's submission as set out in Note Verbale No. L/UN/20(xii) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Secretary General of the United Nations dated 2 March 2009.

4 DESCRIPTION OF THE OUTER LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

- [1] In accordance with paragraph three of the Statement of Understanding fixed points have been selected, at each of which the thickness of the sedimentary rock is not less than 1 kilometre. The geographical coordinates of these fixed points and the length of the straight line segments connecting adjacent points are listed in Table 1. Straight line segments not exceeding 60 M connecting these points are shown in Figure 3.
- Point A, depicted in Figure 3, where the outer limits of the extended continental shelf joins the 200 M line from the territorial sea baseline of Sri Lanka.
 - Point B, depicted in Figure 3, where the outer limits of the extended continental shelf joins the approximate position of another coastal State's 200 M line.
- [2] Depiction of 200 M lines from the territories of other States is based on information available in the public domain at the time of submission and not from officially published data.
- [3] Sri Lanka reserves the right to make submissions in respect of other areas.
- [4] Sri Lanka requests the Commission to make its recommendations on matters related to the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Sri Lanka in accordance with the Statement of Understanding and paragraph 1(a) of article 3 of Annex II to the Convention.



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Table 1. The geographical coordinates of the fixed points defining the outer limits of Sri Lanka's continental shelf beyond 200 M (Datum – WGS 84).

FIXED POINTS	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	PROVISION INVOKED	DISTANCE TO PREVIOUS FIXED POINT (M)
A (Provisional point located on Sri Lanka's 200 M line)	2.70281658	79.58293289	Statement of Understanding	
2	2.60108056	79.66268056	Statement of Understanding	7.7
3	1.75957778	79.54215278	Statement of Understanding	51.0
4	0.90650833	79.34916111	Statement of Understanding	52.5
5	0.43403056	78.60450556	Statement of Understanding	52.9
6	0.51424722	78.37327500	Statement of Understanding	14.7
7	0.46751389	78.20149167	Statement of Understanding	10.7
8	-0.27635278	78.10571111	Statement of Understanding	45.0
9	-1.03286667	77.82860000	Statement of Understanding	48.3
10	-1.38894167	77.29611944	Statement of Understanding	38.4
11	-1.87910000	77.46463056	Statement of Understanding	31.1
12	-2.76063889	77.59902500	Statement of Understanding	53.5
13	-2.61996667	78.31836389	Statement of Understanding	44.0
14	-3.26452222	79.05637778	Statement of Understanding	58.8
15	-3.53550000	78.94289722	Statement of Understanding	17.6
16	-3.79020556	79.18985000	Statement of Understanding	21.3
17	-4.62923056	79.18971667	Statement of Understanding	50.3
18	-5.11678889	78.77263333	Statement of Understanding	38.5
19	-5.66986111	79.05956111	Statement of Understanding	37.4
20	-6.54884444	78.65674722	Statement of Understanding	58.0
21	-7.23210833	79.03488333	Statement of Understanding	46.9
22	-7.79361944	78.67541389	Statement of Understanding	40.0
23	-7.93538611	78.69730833	Statement of Understanding	8.6
24	-8.04453056	79.16774722	Statement of Understanding	29.0
25	-7.43387222	79.17168889	Statement of Understanding	36.6
26	-6.56857778	79.54756111	Statement of Understanding	56.6
27	-6.29848056	80.31473889	Statement of Understanding	48.8
28	-6.40740278	80.58482778	Statement of Understanding	17.5
29	-6.14524444	81.21533056	Statement of Understanding	41.0
30	-5.98591944	82.09984444	Statement of Understanding	53.9
31	-5.84524167	83.00865278	Statement of Understanding	55.2



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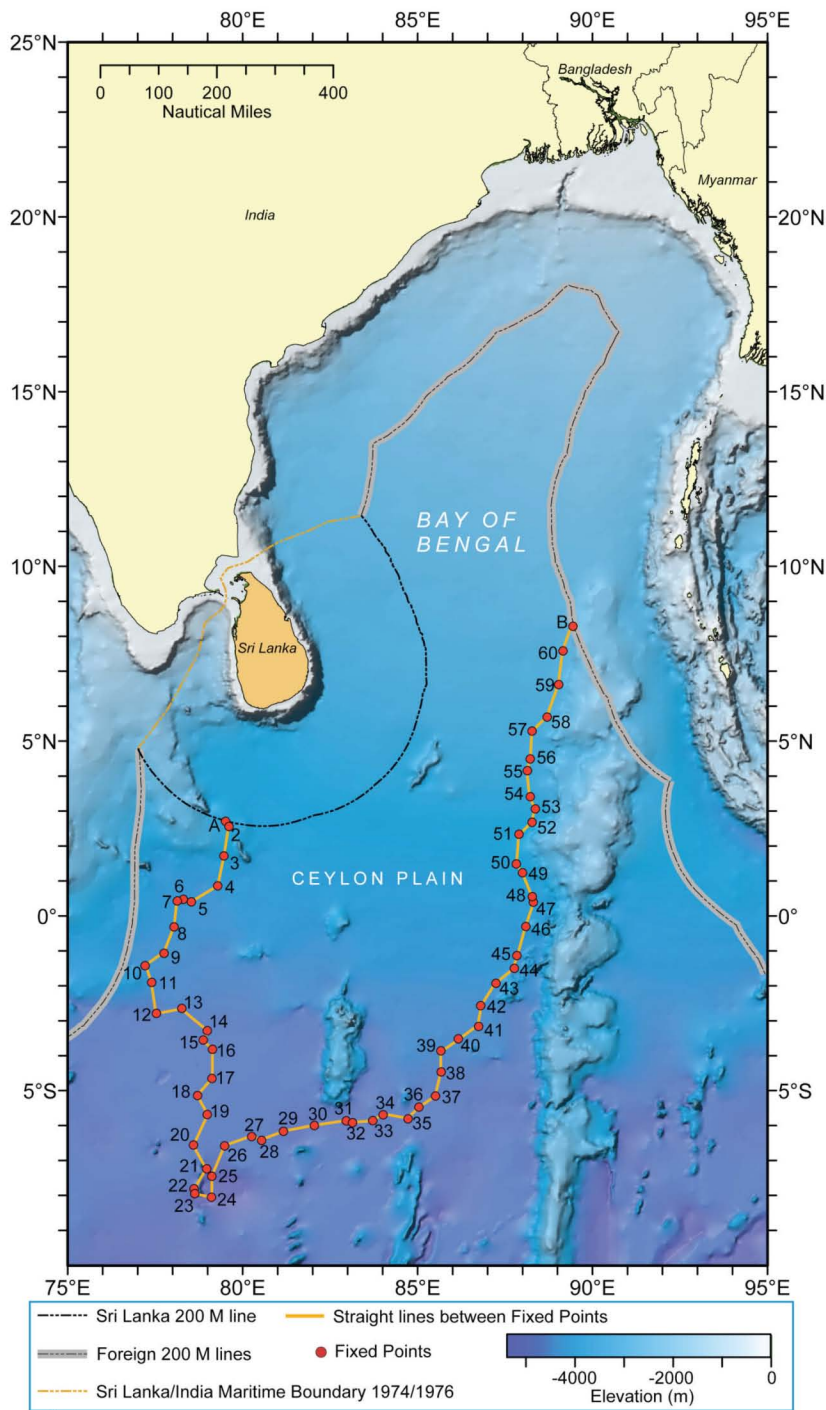
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FIXED POINTS	LATITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	LONGITUDE (DECIMAL DEGREES)	PROVISION INVOKED	DISTANCE TO PREVIOUS FIXED POINT (M)
32	-5.90164722	83.16945278	Statement of Understanding	10.2
33	-5.85462222	83.75937222	Statement of Understanding	35.5
34	-5.66639444	84.05758333	Statement of Understanding	21.2
35	-5.78292222	84.77017778	Statement of Understanding	43.3
36	-5.45497222	85.07667778	Statement of Understanding	26.9
37	-5.12700278	85.55297500	Statement of Understanding	34.7
38	-4.43553056	85.70253611	Statement of Understanding	42.4
39	-3.83565000	85.69646389	Statement of Understanding	36.0
40	-3.50465833	86.19491389	Statement of Understanding	35.9
41	-3.12464722	86.77053611	Statement of Understanding	41.4
42	-2.54616944	86.84635278	Statement of Understanding	35.0
43	-1.90898889	87.26439167	Statement of Understanding	45.7
44	-1.46600833	87.78375556	Statement of Understanding	41.0
45	-1.09797778	87.87525000	Statement of Understanding	22.8
46	-0.25866667	88.10876667	Statement of Understanding	52.3
47	0.43900000	88.33713889	Statement of Understanding	44.0
48	0.58821389	88.29915833	Statement of Understanding	9.2
49	1.28354444	88.02915556	Statement of Understanding	44.8
50	1.53231944	87.84433333	Statement of Understanding	18.6
51	2.38629722	87.92736389	Statement of Understanding	51.5
52	2.72176667	88.29588333	Statement of Understanding	29.9
53	3.10487778	88.38760278	Statement of Understanding	23.6
54	3.46097778	88.24104444	Statement of Understanding	23.1
55	4.20196944	88.15530000	Statement of Understanding	44.8
56	4.54490556	88.23972778	Statement of Understanding	21.2
57	5.34638056	88.28613056	Statement of Understanding	48.2
58	5.73596389	88.73227500	Statement of Understanding	35.5
59	6.68000278	89.04694167	Statement of Understanding	59.7
60	7.64688056	89.17390833	Statement of Understanding	58.5
B (Provisional point located on approximate position of other coastal State's 200 M line)	8.36588652	89.45474289	Statement of Understanding	46.1



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PREPARED BY THE NATIONAL HYDROGRAPHY OFFICE OF SRI LANKA

Figure 3. Map showing the outer limits of the continental shelf of Sri Lanka beyond 200 M.



5 LIST OF GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER LOCAL ENTITIES INVOLVED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS SUBMISSION

[1] The following Institutions and entities of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka contributed to the preparation of this submission.

1. High Level Committee of Experts Appointed by H.E. President of Sri Lanka in 2007
2. Continental Shelf Submission Committee Convened by The Ministry of Foreign Affairs
3. Delimitation of the Outer Edge of the Continental Margin of Sri Lanka under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (DEOCOM Project of the Ministry of Fisheries & Aquatic Resources)
4. National Hydrographic Office (NHO) of National Aquatic Resources Research and Development Agency (NARA).
5. Surveyor General's Department of Sri Lanka

6 LIST OF OVERSEAS INSTITUTIONS THAT ASSISTED SRI LANKA

1. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory, New York, USA.
2. Scripps Institution of Oceanography, California, USA.
3. P.P. Shirshov Institute of Oceanology, Moscow, Russia.
4. Norwegian Petroleum Directorate, Stavanger, Norway.
5. Netherlands Institute for the Law of the Sea, School of Law, Utrecht University, Netherlands.
6. The National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, U.K.
7. Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Limited, New Zealand, (hereinafter GNS Science).

7 COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO PROVIDED ADVICE

[1] Sri Lanka was advised by Dr. Harald Brekke and Dr. Yuri Kazmin in the preparation of its submission. Sri Lanka also acknowledges the advice and assistance provided by Dr. Phillip Symonds under assistance provided by the Government of Australia.



APPENDIX 1: STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING

Annex II

STATEMENT OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING A SPECIFIC METHOD TO BE USED IN ESTABLISHING THE OUTER EDGE OF THE CONTINENTAL MARGIN

THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA,

Considering the special characteristics of a State's continental margin where:

(1) the average distance at which the 200 metre isobath occurs is not more than 20 nautical miles; (2) the greater proportion of the sedimentary rock of the continental margin lies beneath the rise; and

Taking into account the inequity that would result to that State from the application to its continental margin of article 76 of the Convention, in that, the mathematical average of the thickness of sedimentary rock along a line established at the maximum distance permissible in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 4 (a) (i) and (ii) of that article as representing the entire outer edge of the continental margin would not be less than 3.5 kilometres; and that more than half of the margin would be excluded thereby;

Recognizes that such State may, notwithstanding the provisions of article 76, establish the outer edge of its continental margin by straight lines not exceeding 60 nautical miles in length connecting fixed points, defined by latitude and longitude, at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rock is not less than 1 kilometre,

Where a State establishes the outer edge of its continental margin by applying the method set forth in the preceding paragraph of this statement, this method may also be utilized by a neighbouring State for delineating the outer edge of its continental margin on a common geological feature, where its outer edge would lie on such feature on a line established at the maximum distance permissible in accordance with article 76, paragraph 4 (a) (i) and (ii), along which the mathematical average of the thickness of sedimentary rock is not less than 3.5 kilometers,

The Conference requests the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf set up pursuant to Annex II of the Convention, to be governed by the terms of this Statement when making its recommendations on matters related to the establishment of the outer edge of the continental margins of these States in the southern part of the Bay of Bengal.