

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
SUBMISSION FOR EXTENDED CONTINENTAL SHELF
PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 76 OF UNCLOS 1982



AMENDED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OCTOBER 2016

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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

**SUBMISSION FOR AN EXTENDED
CONTINENTAL SHELF PURSUANT TO
ARTICLE 76 OF UNCLOS 1982**

AMENDED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PART I

**SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF (CLCS)**

OCTOBER 2016

**AMENDED EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE SUBMISSION OF
THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA TO THE COMMISSION
ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF**



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1. INTRODUCTION

On 7 May 2009, the Federal Republic of Nigeria (“Nigeria”) made a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (“the Commission”) for the extension of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M), in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (“the Convention”). On 28th September 2015, during its 39th session, the Commission established a Subcommission to consider the submission of Nigeria (“the Submission”). During its consideration of the Submission at the 39th and 40th sessions, the Subcommission posed several questions, and requested additional data and information from Nigeria. In order to fully respond to these matters, Nigeria recognised that it would require additional and enhanced data in the submission area. Accordingly, Nigeria conducted a new geophysical survey in the Gulf of Guinea from March to April 2016.

Following analysis of the new 2016 data, Nigeria prepared responses to the questions posed by the Subcommission. During this process, Nigeria developed an enhanced understanding of the morphology of the deeper parts of its continental margin, and of the structural and sedimentary processes responsible for the geomorphological shaping of the margin. As a result of this enhanced understanding, Nigeria identified a more plausible Base of the Continental Slope (BOS) region and determined new Foot of the Continental Slope (FOS) locations within this region based on the point of maximum change in gradient at the base of the continental slope (76(4b) in accordance with the “General Rule” criteria (para 5.1.3 and 5.1.4) of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission (“the Guidelines”).

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These changes led to the determination of new 1% sediment thickness points, a new delineation of the outer edge of the continental margin (formula) line, and new fixed points delineating the outer limit of the continental shelf of Nigeria.

As a consequence, this has now necessitated the enhancement of relevant parts of Nigeria's original submission to the Commission made in 2009, and this amended Executive Summary.

2. OBJECTIVES

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is a Federal Constitutional Republic in West Africa, bordered by Benin in the west, Chad and Cameroon in the east, and Niger in the north. Its coast in the south lies on the Gulf of Guinea in the Atlantic Ocean. It comprises 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory, where the capital city Abuja is located. The Federal Republic of Nigeria became a State Party to the Convention when it deposited its instrument of ratification on 14 August 1986. It also exercised a simplified procedure for ratification of the Agreement relating to the Implementation of Part XI of the Convention on 28 July 1995.

3. COMMISSION MEMBERS WHO PROVIDED ADVICE DURING THE PREPARATION OF THE SUBMISSION

The Republic of Nigeria received advice from Mr. Lawrence Awosika and Mr. Galo Carrera, who are both current members of the Commission. This submission also benefited from advice provided by Mr. Karl Hinz (late), Mr. Harald Brekke and Mr. Philip Symonds, who are all former members of the Commission.



4. ABSENCE OF DISPUTES

The western part of the Gulf of Guinea is a maritime region over which there might be overlapping claims made by other States. Consultations among the States in the region are expected to take place in the near future to consider the delimitation of any overlapping claims.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria recalls that at a meeting of some Member States of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) on the outer limits of the continental shelf held in Accra Ghana on the 25th to 26th February 2009 under the auspices of the ECOWAS Commission with the support of the Kingdom of Norway, member States of Benin, Cote D' Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo agreed on a "no objection" clause, as contained in paragraph VII/18 of the report of the meeting which states as follow:

Issues of the limit of adjacent/opposite boundaries shall continue to be discussed in a spirit of cooperation to arrive at a definite delimitation even after the presentation of the preliminary information/submission. Member States would therefore write "no objection" Note to the submission of their neighbors.

On this basis, Nigeria wishes to confirm that there are no disputes in the area relevant to this amended Submission of data and other material relating to the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 M. These outer limits are determined without prejudice to the delimitation of continental shelf boundaries between States, according to paragraph 10 of Article 76 of the Convention.

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**5. INSTITUTIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THIS
AMENDED SUBMISSION**

The Nigerian Extended Continental Shelf Project is supervised by a high-level Presidential Committee, chaired by the Honourable Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice. The Nigerian institutions responsible for the preparation of this submission with amendments are:

- The National Boundary Commission
- Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research
- The Nigerian Navy (Office of the Hydrographer of the Navy)
- Department of Petroleum Resources
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Federal Ministry of Justice
- Federal Ministry of Environment

**6. PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76 INVOKED IN SUPPORT OF THIS
AMENDED SUBMISSION.**

This enhanced submission invokes the provision of article 76(4)(a)(i) and 4b supported by additional geological and geophysical data. These data enhanced the determination of the position of the outermost fixed points at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rocks is at least 1 per cent of the shortest distance from such point to the FOS (Article 76, Paragraph 4(a)(i)). These points were used to delineate the outer limit of the continental shelf of Nigeria beyond 200 M.



7. THE FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE AND THE SEDIMENT THICKNESS FORMULA

The geodetic coordinates of the new FOS points utilised in this amended Submission were determined by means of the maximum change in the gradient within an amended BOS region in accordance with the provisions of Article 76 4(b). The identification of the amended BOS region was supported by additional geological and geophysical data and information obtained during the new 2016 survey consistent with Chapters 5 and 6 of the Guidelines.

Seismic data acquired during both the 2006 and 2016 geophysical surveys were used to estimate sediment thickness in the western part of the Gulf of Guinea located beyond 200M. These data supported determination of the position of the outermost fixed points at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rocks is at least 1 per cent of the shortest distance from such point to the FOS (Article 76, Paragraph 4 (a)(i)) (Figure 1).

9. THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF

The outer limit of the continental shelf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria beyond 200 M is determined by the application of a single formula line delineated by reference to 1 per cent sediment thickness points in accordance with Article 76, Paragraph 4 (a)(i). Two points are established at the intersection between the formula line and the 200 M limit of Ghana in the west and Sao Tome and Principe in the east (Figure 2).

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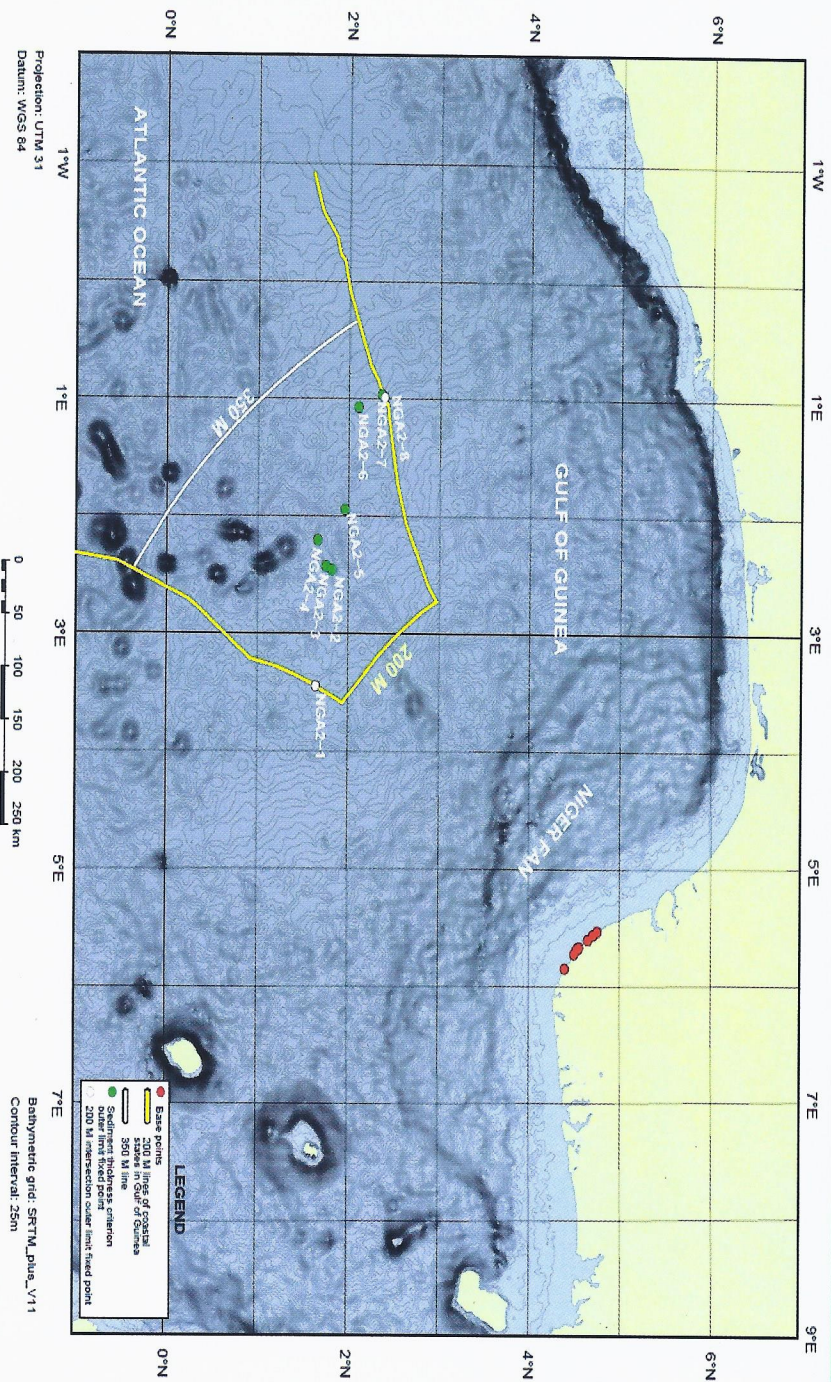


Figure 1. The six fixed points at which the sediment thickness is at least 1% of the shortest distance from such points to the FOS, and two fixed points established at the intersection of the formula line and the 200 M line of Ghana in the west and Sao Tome and Principe in the east. None of these fixed points exceed the 350 M distance constraint of Article 76, Paragraph 5. The fixed points are numbered according to Table 1.

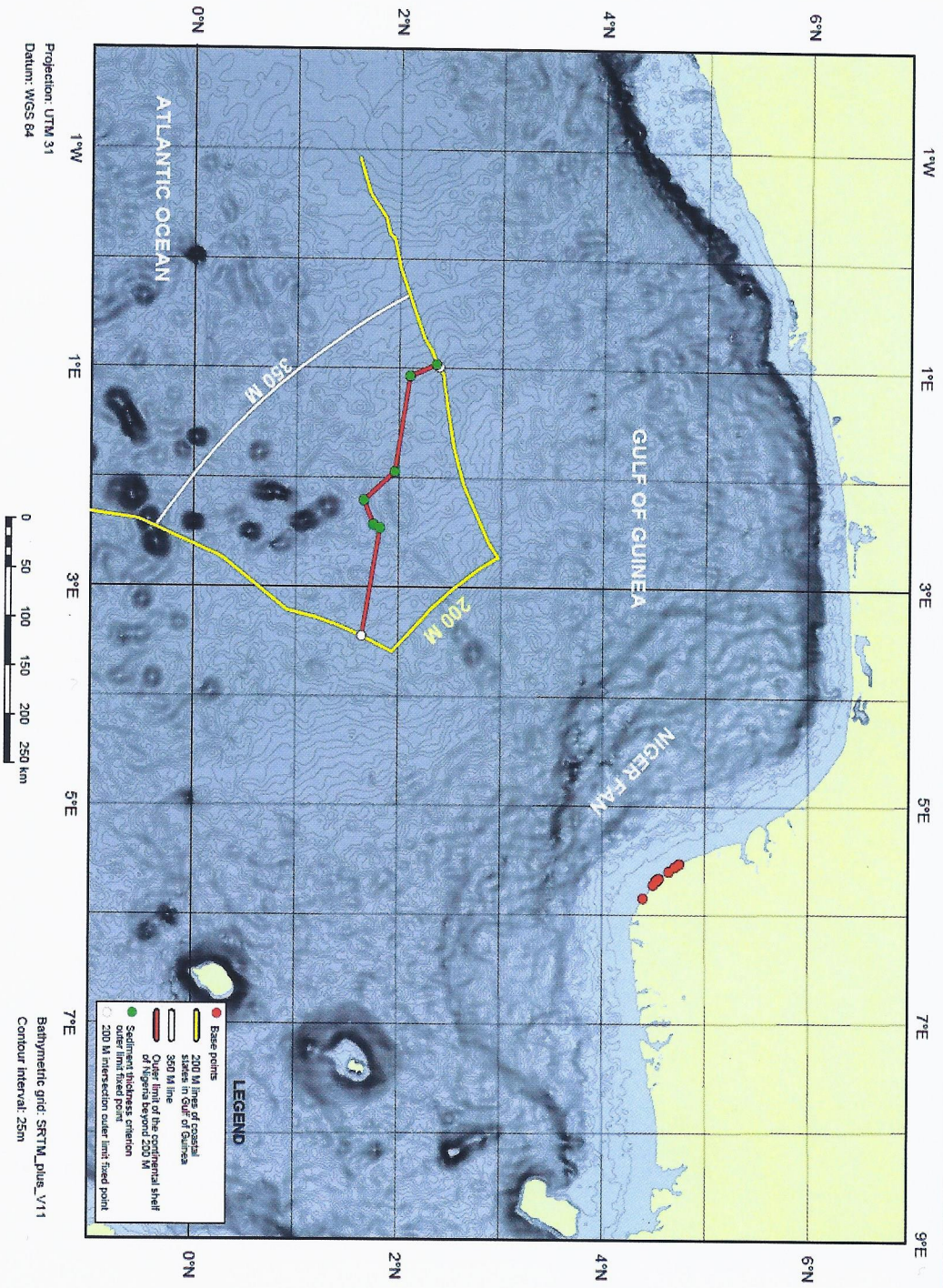


Figure 2. The outer limit of the continental shelf of the Republic of Nigeria beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

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Table 1 lists the coordinates of the fixed points comprising the line of the outer limits of the continental shelf of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the distances between these fixed points.

Table 1. List of geographical coordinates and the Article 76 provisions invoked in the determination of each fixed point comprising the straight lines delineating the outer limits of the continental shelf of the Republic of Nigeria beyond 200 M. The distances between these fixed points do not exceed 60 M.

OUTER LIMITS FIXED POINT	OUTER LIMITS FIXED POINT LATITUDE	OUTER LIMITS FIXED POINT LONGITUDE	ARTICLE 76 PROVISION INVOKED	DISTANCE TO NEXT FIXED POINT (M)
NGA2-1	Intersection	Intersection	ART. 76(4)(a)(i) and (ii) + 200 M of SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	N.A
NGA2-2	1.816636	2.459129	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	59.996
NGA2-3	1.752583	2.426543	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	4.273
NGA2-4	1.661132	2.204986	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	14.388
NGA2-5	1.958815	1.943417	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	23.855
NGA2-6	2.102682	1.071616	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	52.944
NGA2-7	2.358781	0.965519	ART. 76(4)(a)(i)	16.565
NGA2-8	Intersection	Intersection	ART. 76(4)(a)(i) and (ii) + 200 M of GHANA	< 60 M