

# THE REPUBLIC OF NICARAGUA

**Submission to the  
COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF**



**pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the  
United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982.**

**JUNE 2013**

## **Part I: EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**



# Continental Shelf Submission in respect of the Republic of Nicaragua

## Part I. Executive Summary

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## I. Introduction

1. This submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (Commission) is made by the Republic of Nicaragua (Nicaragua) pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 8 of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (Convention) and in support of the establishment of the outer limit of the continental shelf in the southwestern part of the Caribbean Sea.

2. The Republic of Nicaragua is a sovereign and democratic country located in Central America, with a multiethnic population of approximately 6 million people (2012). In the west Nicaragua borders on the Pacific Ocean and in the east on the Caribbean Sea. Its combined coastline is 910 kilometers in length. Known as the “Land of Lakes and Volcanoes”, Nicaragua is the largest country in Central America with a continental landmass of 130,373.40 Km<sup>2</sup>. The extensive Caribbean coast of Nicaragua holds the largest ethnic, cultural, linguistic, geographical and biological diversity, from internationally protected wetlands and forests in its continental territory to internationally protected marine areas in the Caribbean Sea, which are especially rich in coral and fish diversity. Fishing, as well as exploration and exploitation of the natural resources consisting in mineral and other non-living resources of the seabed and subsoil together with living organisms belonging to sedentary species, are an important part of the economy in the Nicaraguan Caribbean region.

3. Nicaragua signed the Convention on 9 December 1984 and ratified the Convention on 3 May 2000. Pursuant to the provisions of paragraph 8 of article 76 of the Convention, article 4 of Annex II to the Convention and article 3 of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission and the decision of the Meeting of States Parties to the Convention contained in SPLOS/183, Nicaragua submitted preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles of Nicaragua in the southwestern part of the Caribbean Sea to the Secretary-General of the United Nations on 7 April 2010. In accordance with the decision contained in SPLOS/183 paragraph 1(a), by making that submission of preliminary information Nicaragua satisfied the ten-year time period referred to in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention.

4. Nicaragua in its preliminary information indicated that:

*In the light of the case concerning the Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia), which is currently pending before the International*

*Court of Justice, and the recommendations of the Commission to the Russian Federation on its submission in the case of the Barents and Bering seas, the Government of Nicaragua intends to consider the further implementation of article 76 for the area of the southwestern part of the Caribbean Sea which is the subject of this submission of preliminary information after the International Court of Justice will have rendered its judgment on the merits in the case concerning the Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia).<sup>1</sup>*

5. The International Court of Justice rendered its judgment on the merits in the case concerning the Territorial and Maritime Dispute (Nicaragua v. Colombia) on 19 November 2012. The judgment determined a single maritime boundary delimiting the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone of Nicaragua and Colombia extending up to the 200-nautical-mile limit from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Nicaragua is measured. The Court did not determine the boundary of the continental shelf of Nicaragua and Colombia beyond this 200-nautical-mile limit, as requested by Nicaragua and observed that Nicaragua had only submitted preliminary information to the Commission.

6. Following the judgment of the International Court of Justice of 19 November 2012 and after undertaking a thorough assessment and review of the scientific data of the areas concerned, Nicaragua has completed the preparation of the present submission on the outer limits of its continental shelf in the south western part of the Caribbean Sea.

## **II. Disputes and Areas of Overlapping Interest**

7. In accordance with article 76(10), the present submission is made without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the continental shelf between Nicaragua and neighbouring States.

8. In accordance with paragraph 2(a) of Annex I to the Commission's Rules of Procedures, Nicaragua wishes to inform the Commission that there are no unresolved land or maritime disputes related to this submission.

## **III. Provisions of Art 76**

9. The outer limits contained in this submission are based on the provisions of Article 76, paragraphs 4 (a) (ii), 4 (b), 5 and 7.

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<sup>1</sup> The Republic of Nicaragua, Preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf and description of the status of preparation of making a submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, para. 27.

#### **IV. Commission members**

10. No advice was provided by any member of the Commission.

#### **V. Organisations involved in the preparation of this submission**

11. The following institutions and advisors provided assistance to the Government of Nicaragua during the preparation of this submission:

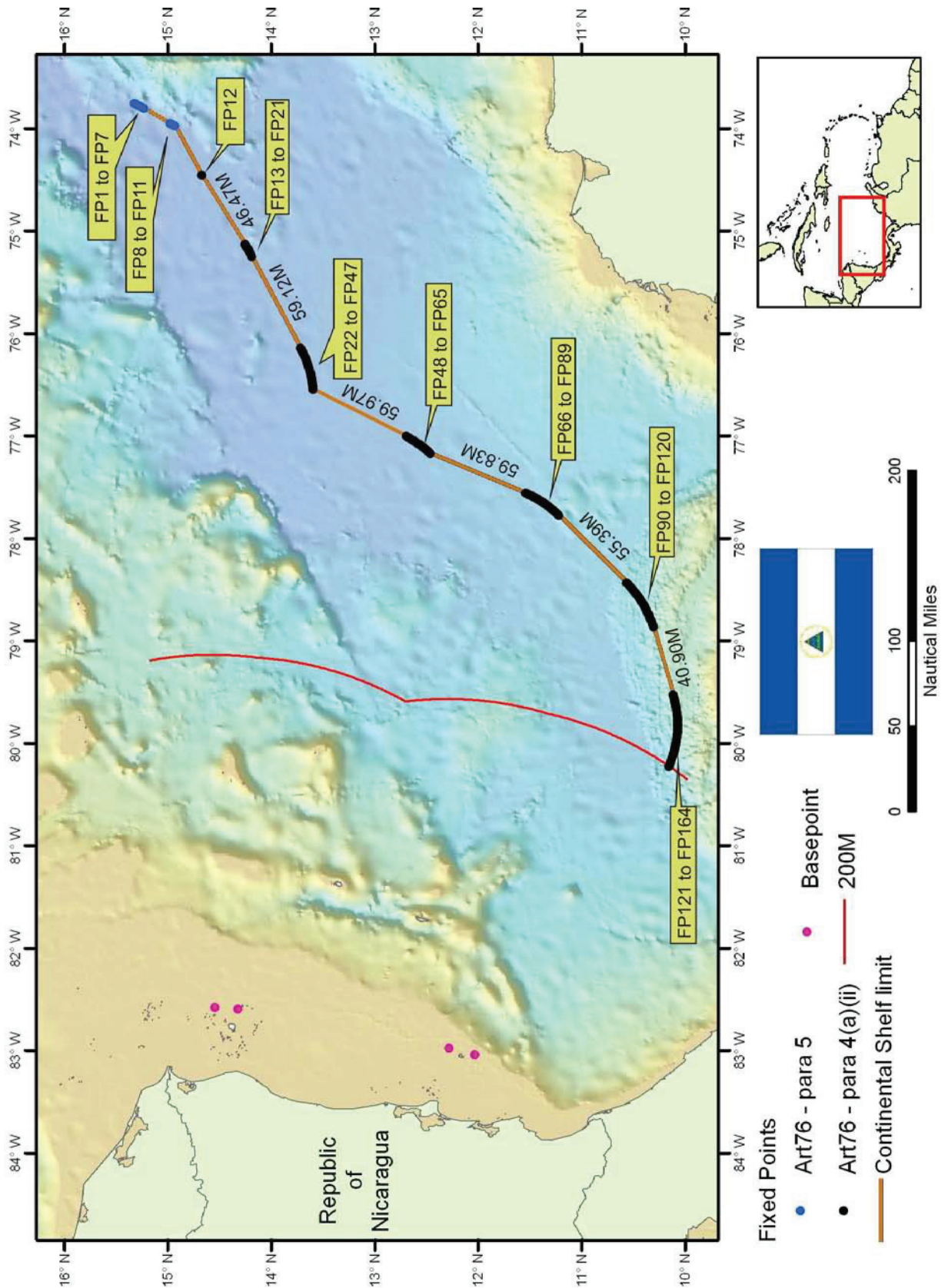
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Nicaragua  
Instituto Nicaragüense de Estudios Territoriales (INETER)  
Netherlands Institute for Law of the Sea  
Maritime Limits and Boundaries Service Ltd  
United Kingdom Hydrographic Office

#### **VI. Description of the outer limit of the continental shelf in the region of the Western Caribbean**

12. The outer limit of the continental shelf in the region of the southwestern Caribbean has been determined using the provisions contained in Article 76 paragraph 4 (a) (ii). Sixty nautical mile arcs measured from the foot of slope (Hedberg formula) have been generated from all the foot of slope points (FOS 1 to FOS 8).

13. The final outer limit is, in parts, constrained by the limits defined by Article 76, para 5 (either 350M or at 100M beyond the 2500m isobath).

14. As provided by Article 76, paragraph 7 of the Convention the outer limit consists of straight lines, each less than 60M long connecting fixed points, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude. Table 1 provides the coordinates of the 164 fixed points.



**Figure 1. Outer Limit of the continental shelf beyond 200M in the region of the western Caribbean**



**Table 1 Coordinates of fixed points (FP) defining the outer limit of the Continental Shelf.**

FP	Longitude (W)	Latitude (N)	Formula	from FP	to FP	Distance(M)
1	-73.752911	15.322429	Art76 - para 5			
2	-73.760434	15.307370	Art76 - para 5	1	2	1.00
3	-73.768113	15.292386	Art76 - para 5	2	3	1.00
4	-73.775942	15.277477	Art76 - para 5	3	4	1.00
5	-73.783925	15.262644	Art76 - para 5	4	5	1.00
6	-73.792057	15.247890	Art76 - para 5	5	6	1.00
7	-73.800342	15.233214	Art76 - para 5	6	7	1.00
8	-73.949128	14.974506	Art76 - para 5	7	8	17.70
9	-73.957549	14.959911	Art76 - para 5	8	9	1.00
10	-73.966119	14.945396	Art76 - para 5	9	10	1.00
11	-73.974624	14.931319	Art76 - para 5	10	11	0.97
12	-74.457163	14.669979	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	11	12	32.10
13	-75.129303	14.250186	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	12	13	46.47
14	-75.143804	14.241238	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	13	14	1.00
15	-75.158456	14.232524	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	14	15	1.00
16	-75.173251	14.224048	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	15	16	1.00
17	-75.188190	14.215813	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	16	17	1.00
18	-75.203266	14.207823	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	17	18	1.00
19	-75.218474	14.200076	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	18	19	1.00
20	-75.233813	14.192578	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	19	20	1.00
21	-75.249275	14.185328	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	20	21	1.00
22	-76.140269	13.713996	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	21	22	59.12
23	-76.155312	13.706002	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	22	23	1.00
24	-76.170489	13.698255	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	23	24	1.00
25	-76.185791	13.690754	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	24	25	1.00
26	-76.201222	13.683503	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	25	26	1.00
27	-76.216772	13.676505	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	26	27	1.00
28	-76.232436	13.669759	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	27	28	1.00
29	-76.248215	13.663267	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	28	29	1.00
30	-76.264100	13.657034	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	29	30	1.00
31	-76.280090	13.651058	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	30	31	1.00
32	-76.296176	13.645344	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	31	32	1.00



FP	Longitude (W)	Latitude (N)	Formula	from FP	to FP	Distance(M)
33	-76.312359	13.639890	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	32	33	1.00
34	-76.328630	13.634702	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	33	34	1.00
35	-76.344989	13.629776	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	34	35	1.00
36	-76.361425	13.625117	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	35	36	1.00
37	-76.377941	13.620726	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	36	37	1.00
38	-76.394528	13.616603	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	37	38	1.00
39	-76.411181	13.612753	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	38	39	1.00
40	-76.427899	13.609170	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	39	40	1.00
41	-76.444675	13.605860	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	40	41	1.00
42	-76.461502	13.602822	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	41	42	1.00
43	-76.478379	13.600058	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	42	43	1.00
44	-76.495301	13.597569	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	43	44	1.00
45	-76.512264	13.595355	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	44	45	1.00
46	-76.529260	13.593415	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	45	46	1.00
47	-76.546288	13.591755	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	46	47	1.00
48	-77.002854	12.692990	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	47	48	59.97
49	-77.010642	12.678099	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	48	49	1.00
50	-77.018682	12.663336	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	49	50	1.00
51	-77.026969	12.648708	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	50	51	1.00
52	-77.035503	12.634216	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	51	52	1.00
53	-77.044282	12.619867	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	52	53	1.00
54	-77.053301	12.605663	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	53	54	1.00
55	-77.062558	12.591608	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	54	55	1.00
56	-77.072051	12.577706	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	55	56	1.00
57	-77.081780	12.563960	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	56	57	1.00
58	-77.091738	12.550377	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	57	58	1.00
59	-77.101922	12.536956	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	58	59	1.00
60	-77.112334	12.523705	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	59	60	1.00
61	-77.122968	12.510625	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	60	61	1.00
62	-77.133819	12.497720	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	61	62	1.00
63	-77.144889	12.484997	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	62	63	1.00
64	-77.156172	12.472453	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	63	64	1.00
65	-77.167663	12.460096	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	64	65	1.00
66	-77.556638	11.534393	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	65	66	59.83

FP	Longitude (W)	Latitude (N)	Formula	from FP	to FP	Distance(M)
67	-77.563367	11.519022	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	66	67	1.00
68	-77.570353	11.503766	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	67	68	1.00
69	-77.577596	11.488625	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	68	69	1.00
70	-77.585093	11.473604	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	69	70	1.00
71	-77.592841	11.458709	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	70	71	1.00
72	-77.600838	11.443944	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	71	72	1.00
73	-77.609084	11.429311	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	72	73	1.00
74	-77.617573	11.414817	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	73	74	1.00
75	-77.626307	11.400464	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	74	75	1.00
76	-77.635281	11.386254	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	75	76	1.00
77	-77.644491	11.372196	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	76	77	1.00
78	-77.653939	11.358288	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	77	78	1.00
79	-77.663619	11.344540	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	78	79	1.00
80	-77.673527	11.330952	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	79	80	1.00
81	-77.683665	11.317527	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	80	81	1.00
82	-77.694025	11.304271	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	81	82	1.00
83	-77.704607	11.291187	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	82	83	1.00
84	-77.715407	11.278279	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	83	84	1.00
85	-77.726422	11.265548	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	84	85	1.00
86	-77.737651	11.253001	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	85	86	1.00
87	-77.749089	11.240642	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	86	87	1.00
88	-77.760733	11.228468	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	87	88	1.00
89	-77.772580	11.216491	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	88	89	1.00
90	-78.432815	10.557372	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	89	90	55.39
91	-78.444832	10.545586	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	90	91	1.00
92	-78.457047	10.534001	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	91	92	1.00
93	-78.469453	10.522618	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	92	93	1.00
94	-78.482049	10.511439	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	93	94	1.00
95	-78.494830	10.500471	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	94	95	1.00
96	-78.507793	10.489714	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	95	96	1.00
97	-78.520933	10.479172	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	96	97	1.00
98	-78.534250	10.468847	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	97	98	1.00
99	-78.547736	10.458742	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	98	99	1.00
100	-78.561393	10.448861	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	99	100	1.00

FP	Longitude (W)	Latitude (N)	Formula	from FP	to FP	Distance(M)
101	-78.575211	10.439207	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	100	101	1.00
102	-78.589189	10.429781	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	101	102	1.00
103	-78.603322	10.420584	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	102	103	1.00
104	-78.617609	10.411625	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	103	104	1.00
105	-78.632043	10.402898	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	104	105	1.00
106	-78.646621	10.394412	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	105	106	1.00
107	-78.661339	10.386165	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	106	107	1.00
108	-78.676193	10.378163	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	107	108	1.00
109	-78.691179	10.370408	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	108	109	1.00
110	-78.706293	10.362899	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	109	110	1.00
111	-78.721531	10.355639	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	110	111	1.00
112	-78.736888	10.348630	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	111	112	1.00
113	-78.752359	10.341877	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	112	113	1.00
114	-78.767940	10.335379	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	113	114	1.00
115	-78.783632	10.329137	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	114	115	1.00
116	-78.799422	10.323155	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	115	116	1.00
117	-78.815311	10.317433	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	116	117	1.00
118	-78.831294	10.311973	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	117	118	1.00
119	-78.847367	10.306776	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	118	119	1.00
120	-78.863523	10.301845	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	119	120	1.00
121	-79.526776	10.108653	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	120	121	40.90
122	-79.543004	10.103989	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	121	122	1.00
123	-79.559307	10.099592	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	122	123	1.00
124	-79.575681	10.095463	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	123	124	1.00
125	-79.592122	10.091607	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	124	125	1.00
126	-79.608626	10.088019	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	125	126	1.00
127	-79.625187	10.084705	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	126	127	1.00
128	-79.641801	10.081663	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	127	128	1.00
129	-79.658463	10.078897	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	128	129	1.00
130	-79.675169	10.076404	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	129	130	1.00
131	-79.691916	10.074187	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	130	131	1.00
132	-79.708696	10.072244	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	131	132	1.00
133	-79.725506	10.070580	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	132	133	1.00
134	-79.742343	10.069193	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	133	134	1.00

FP	Longitude (W)	Latitude (N)	Formula	from FP	to FP	Distance(M)
135	-79.759200	10.068082	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	134	135	1.00
136	-79.776072	10.067248	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	135	136	1.00
137	-79.792958	10.066694	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	136	137	1.00
138	-79.809849	10.066418	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	137	138	1.00
139	-79.826744	10.066418	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	138	139	1.00
140	-79.843635	10.066698	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	139	140	1.00
141	-79.860521	10.067254	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	140	141	1.00
142	-79.877393	10.068091	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	141	142	1.00
143	-79.894250	10.069204	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	142	143	1.00
144	-79.911087	10.070593	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	143	144	1.00
145	-79.927897	10.072260	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	144	145	1.00
146	-79.944677	10.074205	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	145	146	1.00
147	-79.961422	10.076424	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	146	147	1.00
148	-79.978128	10.078919	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	147	148	1.00
149	-79.994790	10.081690	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	148	149	1.00
150	-80.011404	10.084734	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	149	150	1.00
151	-80.027964	10.088050	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	150	151	1.00
152	-80.044466	10.091640	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	151	152	1.00
153	-80.060908	10.095499	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	152	153	1.00
154	-80.077280	10.099629	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	153	154	1.00
155	-80.093582	10.104029	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	154	155	1.00
156	-80.109810	10.108696	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	155	156	1.00
157	-80.125955	10.113629	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	156	157	1.00
158	-80.142017	10.118830	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	157	158	1.00
159	-80.157989	10.124291	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	158	159	1.00
160	-80.173869	10.130016	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	159	160	1.00
161	-80.189650	10.136002	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	160	161	1.00
162	-80.205328	10.142246	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	161	162	1.00
163	-80.220900	10.148748	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	162	163	1.00
164	-80.226063	10.151004	Art76 - para 4(a)(ii)	163	164	0.33

All coordinates relate to the WGS84 geodetic reference system