

5 February 2014

Sir,

We, representatives of the Governments of Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama, have the honour to refer to Nicaragua's communication of 20 December 2013, in response to the objection raised by our countries to its submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, contained in the note dated 23 September 2013 addressed to the Secretary-General, in which Nicaragua affirms, *inter alia*, that such submission, which refers to the outer limits of its so-called continental shelf beyond 200 miles measured from the coast of Nicaragua, is "without prejudice to the delimitation of the continental shelf between Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama".

Nicaragua's assertion in the abovementioned note is erroneous, as its submission does indeed affect the rights of our States.

Without prejudice to what each of our countries have stated separately Nicaragua's submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf violates the rights and ocean space of our countries, including their continental shelf; it also peaceful coexistence in the western Caribbean Sea region.

In view of the foregoing, we reiterate the concern of our Governments over Nicaragua's submission and request that you to convey to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf our strong objection thereto and our opposition to the Commission considering or ruling on Nicaragua's submission.

Ban Ki-Moon

Secretary-General of the United Nations

Moreover, we strongly deny the claim that our States have threatened Nicaragua with the use of force as contained in the note from Nicaragua. That assertion is baseless. The Republic of Nicaragua is the only country that has been a source of instability in the region, through acts contrary to international law.

Lastly, we trust that the United Nations, in keeping with its goal of maintaining international peace and security, will take this concern and our joint declaration into account. Likewise, we request Your Excellency to transmit a copy of this letter to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and to all States Members of the Organization.

We take this opportunity to convey to you the renewed assurances of our highest consideration.

(Signed) María Ángela **Holguín Cuéllar**

Minister for Foreign Affairs

(Signed) José Enrique **Castillo Barrantes**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica

(Signed) Francisco **Álvarez de Soto**

Minister for Foreign Affairs of Panama