



S-DM-13-035351

Bogotá, 24 September 2013

Mr. Secretary General,

I have the honour to address Your Excellency on the occasion of referring to the document entitled "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 – Part I: Executive Summary", submitted by Nicaragua on 24 June 2013, which was published on the website of that Commission.

As Your Excellency is aware, the Republic of Colombia is not a party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Nicaragua's submission is therefore not opposable to Colombia and does not affect Colombia's rights to its continental shelf. Colombia further notes that no action or inaction by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental shelf is opposable to Colombia, nor could such action or inaction affect Colombia's rights under international law.

In this connection, the Republic of Colombia wishes to inform the United Nations and its member States that Nicaragua's submission makes reference to submarine areas in the Caribbean Sea that belong to Colombia under international law.

His Excellency
BAN KI-MOON
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York



I take this opportunity to reiterate the contents of my Note of 23 April 2013, addressed to Your Excellency, to the effect that, under customary international law, the Republic of Colombia exercises, ipso facto and ab initio and by virtue of its sovereignty over its land, sovereign rights over its continental shelf inter alia in the Caribbean Sea. In accordance with customary international law, this comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance. Also in accordance with customary international law, the Republic of Colombia's islands, regardless of their size, enjoy the same maritime rights as the country's other land territory.

By virtue of the abovementioned, the Republic of Colombia formulates an express reservation on the entire document mentioned before and requests Your Excellency that the present statement be circulated to all members of the United Nations, including the States Party to the aforesaid Convention and be transmitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf.

I avail myself to renew to Your Excellency the assurances of my highest consideration.

MONICA LANZETTA MUTIS
Acting Minister of Foreign Affairs
Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs