

3 February 2014

Sir,

I have the honour to write to you with regard to note MINIC-UN-50-13 of 20 December 2013, by which the Permanent Mission of Nicaragua to the United Nations submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf its views concerning the position of the Government of Panama regarding Nicaragua's request to extend its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles.

In this regard, I would like to state that the extension claimed by Nicaragua overlaps with Panamanian maritime areas. When the limits established in the Treaty on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas and related matters between the Republic of Panama and the Republic of Colombia are compared against the area between the coordinates of fixed points (FP) FP-83 and FP-164 set out in the executive summary submitted by Nicaragua, it is absolutely clear that those coordinates fall within Panama's marine and submarine areas and continental shelf. A map is attached hereto for your reference.

In this regard, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea recognizes the scope and obligations set out in agreements between States parties, such as the delimitation treaty signed between Panama and Colombia, which covers marine and submarine areas. Therefore, the claim for extension submitted by Nicaragua cannot affect the limits of the continental shelf established in the Treaty on the delimitation of marine and submarine areas between Panama and Colombia.

We strongly object to the claim for the extension of the continental shelf submitted by the Republic of Nicaragua; we do not consent to the Commission's consideration or assessment of Nicaragua's submission and we request the Commission to dismiss it in its entirety.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

**Francisco Álvarez De Soto**  
Minister for Foreign Affairs

His Excellency  
Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General  
United Nations  
New York

\_\_\_\_\_

