

PERMANENT MISSION OF JAPAN
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The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and, with reference to the circular CLCS.30.2009.LOS (Continental Shelf Notification) dated 5 May 2009, concerning the receipt of the submission made by the Kingdom of Norway to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”), has the honour to express the position of the Government of Japan with regard to the submission made by the Kingdom of Norway, and requests that this note verbale be circulated to the members of the Commission and Member States of the United Nations, and be posted on the web site of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS) of the Secretariat of the United Nations.

Japan confirms the importance of keeping harmony between the Antarctic Treaty and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and thereby ensuring the continuing peaceful cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic area.

Recalling Article IV of the Antarctic Treaty, Japan does not recognize any State's right of or claims to territorial sovereignty in Antarctica, and consequently does not recognize any State's right over or claims to the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the continent of Antarctica.

From this standpoint, Japan stresses that the balance of rights and obligations in the Antarctic Treaty should not be affected in any way in handling the information on the limits of the continental shelf, submitted by the Kingdom of Norway to the Commission.

Japan understands that the Commission will not take any action on the portion of Norway's submission relating to the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas adjacent to the continent of Antarctica.

The Permanent Mission of Japan to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

19 November 2009

