

Translated from French

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the submission by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 11 May 2009 of a document entitled “Preliminary information for 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 of 1982, concerning the Gulf of Guinea region” and a second document entitled “Act delimiting the maritime areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, which deal with its plan to extend the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, pursuant to article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

In that connection, the Government of the Republic of Angola wishes to make the following points:

1. The Government of the Republic of Angola has taken note of the Congolese plan to establish the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles, which was submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf on 11 May 2009.
2. The Government of the Republic of Angola rejects this document, which is aimed at the unilateral delimitation of all maritime areas, including the continental shelf, and requests that the rules of international law be followed, as well as the relevant international practice and case law. In that connection, the Republic of Angola remains firmly committed to the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (article 83, paragraph 1), which specify that “the delimitation of the continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution”.
3. The Republic of Angola affirms that it does not consider itself bound by the “Act delimiting the maritime areas of the Democratic Republic of the Congo”, which is attached to the preliminary information submitted by that country. Indeed, it takes the view that its legitimate interests as regards maritime areas are harmed by the Act.

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

4. The Government of the Republic of Angola intends to study the plan of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to extend its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and will make its position on the subject known in due course.

5. The Republic of Angola remains ready at any time to resolve the dispute arising from this situation through the relevant machinery provided for in international law.

The Government of the Republic of Angola requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to register this letter and have it distributed and published in the Law of the Sea Bulletin and any other relevant United Nations publications.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Angola to the United Nations takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.
