

Preliminary Information submitted by  
the Republic of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands  
and the Republic of the Fiji Islands on the North Fiji Basin

1. The Republic of the Fiji Islands, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu ('hereinafter referred to as the three coastal States') are each Party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ('the Convention'). All three coastal States signed the Convention on 10 December 1982, with the Republic of the Fiji Islands also ratifying the Convention on that day. The Solomon Islands ratified the Convention on 23 June 1997 and the Republic of Vanuatu ratified the Convention on 10 August 1999.

2. The three coastal States are mindful of their obligations under the Convention and of the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ('the Commission') for coastal States and the international community as a whole. The three coastal States intend to jointly submit this preliminary information to the Commission. In the event this joint submission is, for any reason, not achievable or practical, any of the three coastal States shall be entitled to submit this preliminary information either alone or in conjunction with any of the other two coastal States.

3. Pursuant to the *Decision regarding the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the ability of States, particularly developing States, to fulfil the requirements of article 4 of annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as well as the decision contained in SPLOS/72, paragraph (a), (SPLOS/183)*, the three coastal States submit the following preliminary information in order to provide an indication of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles (M) in respect of the North Fiji Basin, an area where the three coastal States have an extended continental shelf.

4. The three coastal States recognise that, in respect of this area, there are overlapping claims to an extended continental shelf. The three coastal States submit this preliminary information on the understanding that it is without prejudice to the delimitation of the extended continental shelf in this area.

5. The three coastal States note also that several maritime delimitations remain outstanding between them and with other opposite and adjacent coastal States. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Article 76 of the Convention and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, this preliminary information is submitted without prejudice to these delimitations and to any other maritime delimitation involving the three coastal States.

6. In accordance with operative paragraph 1 (a) of SPLOS/183 information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M in the North Fiji Basin is depicted in the attached figure relating to this area.

7. The three coastal States note also for the purpose of operative paragraph 1(a) of SPLOS/183, that work to prepare a submission in respect of the North Fiji Basin has commenced and the necessary legal, policy and technical expertise has been assembled for this purpose. In addition, the Republic of the Fiji Islands and Solomon Islands have prepared separate submissions, either alone or in conjunction with other coastal States, relating to other substantial and complex areas of continental shelf beyond 200 M.

8. In addition to the resources that the three coastal States have committed to this work, the Republic of the Fiji Islands and the Solomon Islands have each received funding from the *“Trust fund for the purpose of facilitating the preparation of submissions to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and small island developing States, and compliance with article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”* (‘UN Trust Fund’), which has enabled them to purchase specialised softwares and to undertake requisite trainings. The Republic of Vanuatu is in the process of applying for this funding through the UN Trust Fund.

9. The three coastal States note that they intend to lodge a submission in respect of the North Fiji Basin by the end 2012, mindful of the need to support the Commission in the performance of its function under the Convention in an efficient and timely manner. In this regard, the three coastal States will continue to take advantage of available data and opportunities for scientific and technical capacity building, advice and assistance in order to prepare the submission.

10. The three coastal States note that in accordance with operative paragraph 1(b) of SPLOS/183, pending the receipt of the submission concerning the North Fiji Basin, the preliminary information submitted by the three coastal States shall not be considered by the Commission.

11. The three coastal States note also that in accordance with operative paragraph 1(c) of SPLOS/183, the preliminary information submitted is without prejudice to the future submission concerning the North Fiji Basin and its consideration by the Commission.

12. The three coastal States request that the Secretary-General inform the Commission and notify member States of the receipt of this preliminary information in accordance with operative paragraph 1(d) of SPLOS/183.

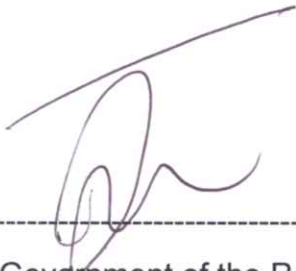


1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea  
19<sup>th</sup> April 2009

13. The three coastal States shall consult and endeavour to reach amicable consensus on any matter necessary for completion of a joint full submission on the North Fiji Basin.

14. This Preliminary Information is subject to further and full submission by the three coastal States to the Commission.

Signed in Port Vila, Vanuatu on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> day of April, Two Thousand and Nine.



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For the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu

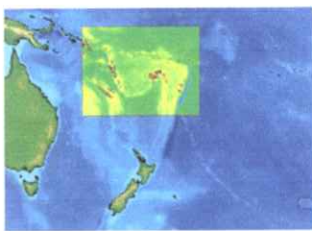
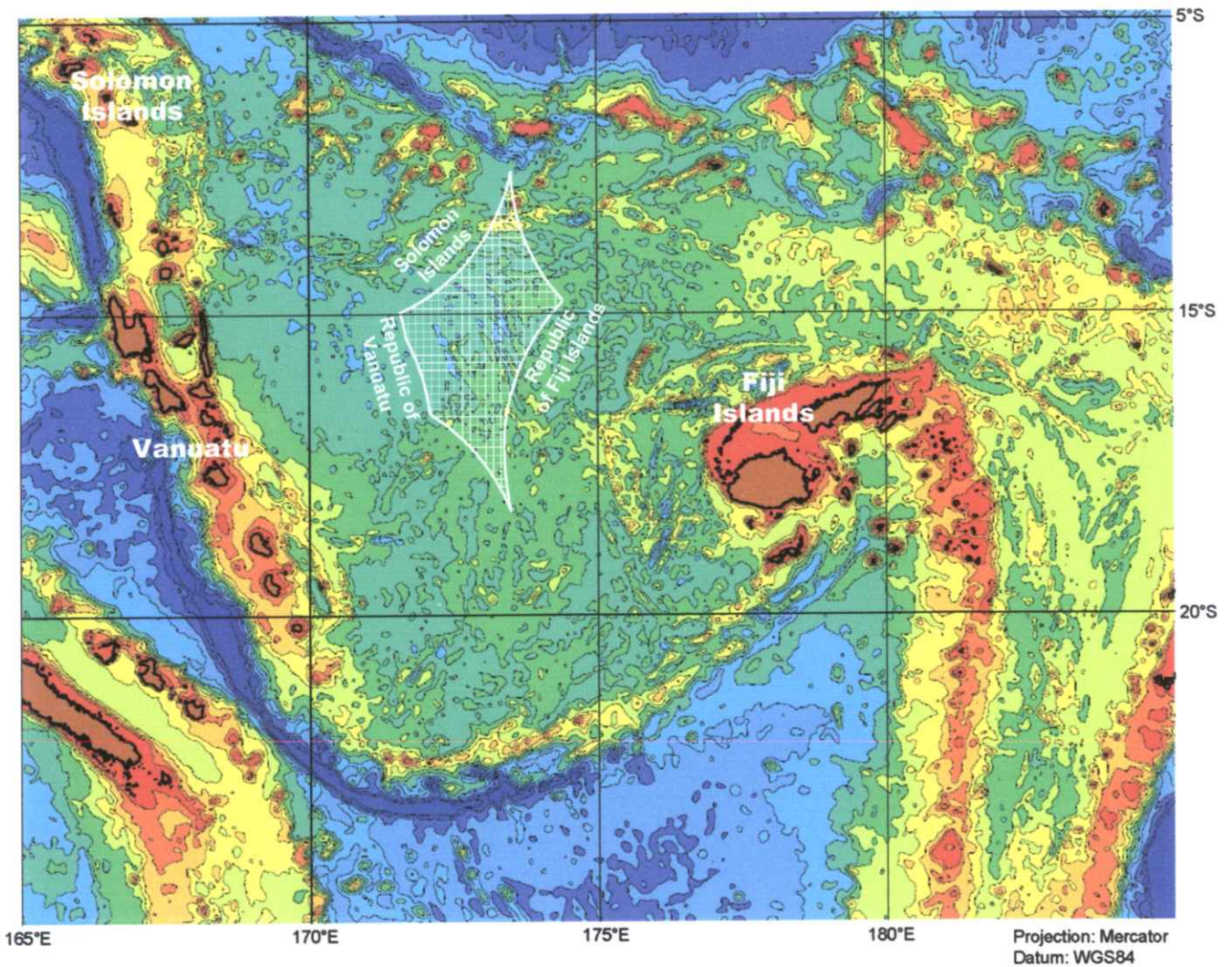


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For the Government of the Solomon Islands



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For the Government of the Republic of the Fiji Islands

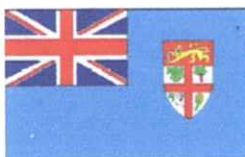
# Preliminary Information pursuant to SPLOS/183 indicative of the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf beyond 200M in the North Fiji Basin submitted by the Republic of Fiji Islands, Solomon Islands and Republic of Vanuatu



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## Explanatory Notes

- The Republic of the Fiji Islands, the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu ('hereinafter referred to as the three coastal States') recognise that, in respect of this area, there are overlapping claims to an extended continental shelf. The three coastal States submit this preliminary information on the understanding that it is without prejudice to the delimitation of the extended continental shelf in this area.
- In accordance with operative paragraph 1 (a) of SPLOS/183 information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M in the North Fiji Basin is depicted in this figure relating to the three coastal States note that in accordance with operative paragraph 1(b) of SPLOS/183, pending the receipt of the submission concerning the North Fiji Basin, the preliminary information submitted by the three coastal States shall not be considered by the Commission.
- The three coastal States note also that several maritime delimitations remain outstanding between them and with other opposite and adjacent coastal States. Pursuant to paragraph 10 of Article 76 of the Convention and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, this preliminary information is submitted without prejudice to these delimitations and to any other maritime delimitation involving the three coastal States.
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Fiji Islands



Solomon Islands



Vanuatu