
Preliminary Information regarding the Outer Limits of the Continental Shelf

Pursuant to paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 and the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the UNCLOS(SPLOS/183)



the Republic of Korea



Introduction

The Republic of Korea (hereafter referred to as "Korea") signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 (hereafter referred to as "the Convention") on 14 March 1983, and ratified the Convention on 29 January 1996. The Convention entered into force for Korea on 28 February 1996.

Korea extended its territorial sea to 12 M with effect from 30 April 1978 (Territorial Sea Act, No. 3037) and its contiguous zone to 24 M with effect from 1 August 1996 (Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone Act, No. 4986), and proclaimed a 200 M exclusive economic zone with effect from 10 September 1996 (Exclusive Economic Zone Act, No. 5151).

Through the Submarine Mineral Resources Development Act (No. 2184) of 1 January 1970 and the subsequent Presidential Decree (No. 5020) of 30 May 1970, Korea proclaimed sovereign rights over the seabed and subsoil outside the coast of Korea as regards the exploration and exploitation of natural deposits, taking into account that the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf exist *ipso facto* and *ab initio*.

On 30 January 1974, Korea and Japan signed the Agreement between the Republic of Korea and Japan Concerning Joint Development of the Southern Part of the Continental Shelf Adjacent to the Two Countries (hereafter referred to as "the 1974 Agreement"), which created a mechanism to carry out jointly

exploration and exploitation of natural resources on the continental shelf of the East China Sea.

In accordance with Article 76 of the Convention and the decision of the Eighteenth Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/183), Korea has decided to submit to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (hereafter referred to as "the Secretary-General") preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M, a description of the status of preparation and the intended date of making a submission, in order to satisfy the time period referred to in Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention and the decision of the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention (SPLOS/72).

Korea takes note of paragraph 1(b) of SPLOS/183 which states that, pending the receipt of the submission in accordance with the requirements of Article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (hereafter referred to as "the Commission"), preliminary information submitted in accordance with SPLOS/183 shall not be considered by the Commission.

Korea also notes that, in accordance with paragraph 1(c) of SPLOS/183, preliminary information submitted by a coastal State in accordance with SPLOS/183 is without prejudice to the submission in accordance with the requirements of Article 76 of the Convention and with the Rules of Procedure and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission, and the consideration of the submission by the Commission.

Outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M

The outer limits of the continental shelf in the East China Sea beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Korea is measured are located in the Okinawa Trough, where the seabed and subsoil of the East China Sea comprises a continuous continental landmass extending from Korea's coast to the limits specified in the Convention.

This preliminary information is confined only to a part of the outer limits of the continental shelf in the East China Sea within the Joint Development Zone (hereafter referred to as "the JDZ"), which refers to the area established under the 1974 Agreement and beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Korea is measured.

The fixed points defining the foot of the continental slope (FOS-1 to FOS-4, set out in Attachment 1) have been determined in accordance with paragraph 4(b) of Article 76 of the Convention. The fixed points of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M referred to in this preliminary information (KOR-1 to KOR-4, set out in Attachment 1) are identical to four fixed points established in the 1974 Agreement. The other two points defining the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M referred to in this preliminary information (KOR-5 and KOR-6, set out in Attachment 1) are bridging points on 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Korea is measured. Accordingly, the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 M referred to in

this preliminary information are delineated by reference to these six fixed points, which are depicted in Attachment 2.

The list of fixed points and a map of the relevant area are contained in Attachment 1 and 2, which set out the information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf in the JDZ and beyond 200 M from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea of Korea is measured.

Status of preparation

The Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources has been carrying out the preparation for the submission in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Convention with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs, the Ministry of Knowledge Economy and the National Oceanographic Research Institute.

Since 1996, negotiations on the delimitation of boundaries in the East China Sea have been made with the People's Republic of China (hereafter referred to as "China") and Japan, respectively. Korea has also made the necessary consultations with these two countries regarding the submission in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Convention.

Taking into account the consultations with China and Japan with respect to the submission in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Convention, the ongoing negotiations with China and Japan on the delimitation of boundaries in

the East China Sea, and the increasing workload of the Commission, Korea has decided to submit this preliminary information to the Secretary-General.

Intended date of making a submission

Korea intends to make its submission, in accordance with paragraph 8 of Article 76 of the Convention, at an appropriate date, taking into account the progress of ongoing negotiations with China and Japan on the delimitation of boundaries in the East China Sea and other relevant matters.

Korea believes that this submission of preliminary information is the best means to fulfill its obligations under paragraph 8 of Article 76 and Article 4 of Annex II to the Convention, in a manner that avoids prejudice to the unresolved questions relating to the delimitation of boundaries between neighboring States in the East China Sea.

Korea assures the Secretary-General, and has assured China and Japan, that this submission is, consistent with paragraph 10 of Article 76 of the Convention, without prejudice to the question of delimitation of the continental shelf in the East China Sea, and is without prejudice to any agreement between Korea and any other State as well as the rights of any State not party to any such agreement.

Attachment 1: list of fixed points

Attachment 2: map of the relevant area

Attachment 1

Fixed point coordinates defining the foot of the continental slope

FOS Fixed Point	Latitude			Longitude			Latitude	Longitude	Depth (meters)	Distance (M)
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Deg		
FOS-01	30	14	09.422	128	22	34.339	30.2359505	128.3762054	859	0
FOS-02	29	48	01.027	128	11	30.216	29.8002853	128.1917267	1,033	27.79
FOS-03	29	37	34.408	128	00	11.151	29.6262245	128.0030975	1,001	14.34
FOS-04	29	07	46.706	127	27	21.138	29.1296406	127.4558716	974	41.31

Fixed point coordinates comprising the line of a part of the outer limits of the continental shelf of Korea

Fixed Point	Latitude			Longitude			Latitude	Longitude	Distance From FOS (M)	
	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Min	Sec	Deg	Deg		
KOR-01	28	36	00.000	127	38	00.000	28.6000000	127.6333333	33.05	FOS-04
KOR-02	29	19	00.000	128	00	00.000	29.3166667	128.0000000	18.53	FOS-03
KOR-03	29	43	00.000	128	38	00.000	29.7166667	128.6333333	23.60	FOS-02
KOR-04	30	19	00.000	129	09	00.000	30.3166667	129.1500000	40.49	FOS-01
KOR-05	30	35	16.935	129	06	40.671	30.5880375	129.1112976	43.57	FOS-01
KOR-06	29	46	51.855	126	34	01.754	29.7810707	126.5671539	-	-

Attachment 2

