

REFERENCE: CLCS. 01. 2001. LOS/NOR

2 April 2002


**United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
concluded at Montego Bay, Jamaica
on 10 December 1982**

Norway: Notification regarding the submission made by the Russian
Federation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

The Secretary-General of the United Nations communicates the following:

On 20 March 2002, the Secretary-General received from the Government of Norway a note verbale dated 20 March 2002, referring to the submission to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, made by the Russian Federation on 20 December 2001, pursuant to article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention.

The text of the note verbale is attached for information.



**PERMANENT MISSION OF NORWAY
TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

825 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022

Tel: (212) 421-0280 • Fax: (212) 688-0554

The Permanent Mission of Norway to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to his communication dated 20 December 2001 (Continental Shelf Notification CLCS.01.2001.LOS), regarding receipt of the submission made by the Russian Federation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, with an Executive Summary of the Russian submission enclosed.

In accordance with rule 5 (a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the said Commission, the Permanent Mission of Norway has the honour to submit the following comments of the Norwegian Government concerning the Russian submission, pertaining to the unresolved delimitation issue between Norway and the Russian Federation with regard to the continental shelf in the Barents Sea. The comments are submitted in agreement with the Russian Federation.

The delimitation of the continental shelf between Norway and the Russian Federation has not yet been settled and is the object of ongoing consultations. The unresolved delimitation issue in the Barents Sea is therefore to be considered as a “maritime dispute” for the purposes of rule 5 (a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission.

The Norwegian and Russian claims cover an overlapping area defined by the following coordinates given in geodetic datum WGS 84, and which for the above purposes constitutes the “area under dispute”:

H.E. The Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

The Norwegian position:

Deg	min	sec N	deg	min	sec E
70	16	28.95	32	04	23.00
70	16	48.5362	32	06	02.9469
70	17	42.5396	32	10	02.9584
70	21	42.5546	32	27	39.0091
70	26	30.5724	32	48	57.0710
71	09	24.7226	35	37	09.5723
72	14	42.9344	39	46	28.3915
72	21	54.9564	40	10	46.4761
72	59	19.0562	39	35	52.3039
73	22	01.1169	39	16	04.1991
73	28	19.1336	39	08	58.1627
73	46	01.1805	38	48	40.0568
73	55	01.2043	38	38	04.0004
74	02	25.2237	38	27	27.9455
74	11	13.2498	38	41	57.9927
74	13	31.2567	38	46	22.0078
74	30	43.3069	39	08	52.0783
75	31	49.4858	40	45	46.4296
76	03	07.5747	41	03	58.4803
76	40	55.6858	42	55	10.9909
77	37	25.8423	41	45	58.5923
79	18	44.0821	34	51	43.9283
79	20	50.0863	34	41	49.8566
79	22	02.0889	34	37	25.8232
80	25	50.2770	35	16	25.7061
80	28	56.2864	35	19	43.7094
80	29	50.2890	35	19	55.7052
80	33	56.3010	35	21	43.6919
82	07	02.5781	36	41	37.6540
82	33	20.6452	35	51	31.0040
82	47	26.6790	35	13	00.5186
83	10	40.15	35	00	00.00
83	44	46.67	34	12	39.91
84	33	57.65	32	34	03.58
84	39	16.57	32	11	32.77
84	41	40.67	32	03	51.36
85	26	54.04	29	12	22.12
85	27	24.51	29	10	05.94

The Russian position:

Deg	min	sec N	deg	min	sec E
70	16	28.95	32	04	23.00
74	00	01.19	32	04	20.32
74	00	01.19	34	59	57.09
81	00	02.37	34	59	55.36
81	00	02.37	32	04	09.18
84	41	40.67	32	03	51.36

In the central Barents Sea a sizeable area is located beyond 200 nautical miles from the respective baselines of Norway and the Russian Federation. Bathymetric and seismic data show this area to be part of the shallow waters of the Barents Sea, which in its full extent is situated landward of the foot of the continental slope. Furthermore, no part of this area extends beyond 350 nautical miles from the baselines of either of the two coastal states. With reference to the applicable rules in article 76, paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), it is consequently clear that this area beyond 200 nautical miles may be considered as being part of the continental shelf still to be delimited by the two coastal states concerned without any need for further scientific or technical documentation.

The Western limit of the Russian claim over the continental shelf is defined by a line drawn through points 1 through 6 as set out in Table 1, entitled "Geographic coordinates of the points that define lines of the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Russian Federation in the Arctic Ocean", contained in the Executive Summary of the Russian submission. An illustration is also provided in Map 2 of the same Executive Summary. This Western limit represents the Russian claim as set out above. It is without prejudice to the delimitation of the continental shelf between Norway and the Russian Federation in the area under dispute. That delimitation will depend on the outcome of ongoing consultations.

Point 7 as set out in the said Table 1 of the Russian submission's Executive Summary is located in the "area under dispute". The final location of that point has not yet been determined. This will be done following consultations between the Russian Federation and Norway with a view to connecting point 8 of the said Table 1 with the easternmost point of the Norwegian continental shelf. Point 7 will thus be defined at a later stage.

The unresolved delimitation issue represents, as stated above, a "maritime dispute" for the purposes of rule 5 (a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf. Accordingly, the actions of the Commission shall, in accordance with UNCLOS Annex II, article 9, not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between Norway and the Russian Federation.

On all the above understandings, Norway consents, in accordance with the said rule 5 (a), to an examination by the Commission of the Russian submission with regard to the "area under dispute" as described above.

The Permanent Mission of Norway 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.

New York, 20 March 2002

