



**The Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic
Office of the Prime Minister**

XRW/00508/08/09

August 19, 2009

H.E. Excellency Ban Ki Moon
Secretary General of the United Nations
New York, USA

Excellency,

With reference to your communication dated 25 March 2009 (Continental Shelf Notification CLCS:18.2009.LOS) regarding the submission made by the Republic of Yemen to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and in accordance with rule 5 (a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, I have the honour, on behalf of the Transitional Federal Government of the Somali Republic, to submit the following observations:

The delimitation of the continental shelf between the Somali Republic and the Republic of Yemen has not yet been settled. There may therefore be a potential overlap between the areas of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles claimed by the two coastal States. Unresolved delimitation issues between two coastal States, as well as any overlap between the areas of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles claimed by them, should be considered by reference to rule 46 and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. For the purpose of article 5 (a) of Annex I of these Rules of Procedure such unresolved delimitation issues should be considered as a "maritime dispute". Areas covered by overlapping claims by the two coastal States constitute for the same purposes "the areas under dispute". The actions of the Commission shall, in accordance with article 9 of Annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, not prejudice matters relating to the delimitation of the continental shelf between the two coastal States. This also applies to the actions of the Commission with respect to the above mentioned Yemeni submission.

In this respect I have the honour, in particular, to draw the attention of the Commission to paragraph 7.4 in the preliminary information indicative of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles submitted by Somalia in accordance with document SPLOS/183, which reads as follows:

“The Chain Ridge is a seafloor high that extends south-south-westwards from the southern flank of the Carlsberg Ridge. To the south it ends seaward of the Central Somali Spur. To the north, it connects morphologically with Socotra Island and the tip of the Horn of Africa via the Carlsberg Ridge (Figure 1 and Figure 2).

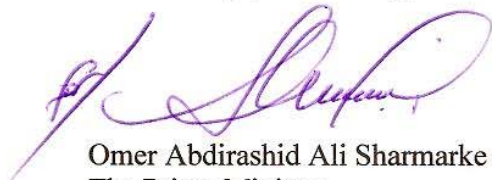
At the present stage, it is unclear whether the foot of the slope of the continental margin of Somalia may connect with the foot of the slope of the Chain Ridge. If that proves to be the case, it is possible that the Chain Ridge may be regarded to be part of the submarine prolongation of the landmass of Somalia. In such case, the Chain Ridge would be part of the continental margin of Somalia in accordance with article 76, paragraph 3.

Further studies and data are needed to clarify this question”.

Somalia is ready to enter into consultations with the Republic of Yemen with a view to reaching an agreement or understanding which will allow the Commission to consider and make recommendations on submissions by each of the two coastal States in the areas under dispute without prejudice to the final delimitation of the continental shelf to be concluded subsequently in the areas under dispute by the two coastal States. Pending such an agreement or understanding Somalia requests the Commission not to take any steps that would prejudice any future bilateral delimitation in the maritime area concerned.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be brought to the attention of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, and made publicly available, including on the website of the Commission.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.



Omer Abdirashid Ali Sharmarke
The Prime Minister

