



# General Assembly

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**Sixty-seventh session**

Agenda item 75 (a)

**Oceans and the law of the sea**

## **Note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

The Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the diplomatic note dated 22 April 2013 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, María Ángela Holguín Cuellar, addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, Ban Ki-moon, by means of which the Government of Colombia makes a declaration concerning its continental shelf with the terms and conditions indicated therein (see annex).

In that regard, the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations would be grateful if the present note could be circulated as a document of the sixty-seventh session of the General Assembly under agenda item 75 (a) entitled “Oceans and the law of the sea”. Upon instructions from its Government, the Permanent Mission also requests that this note be sent to all relevant organs, bodies and entities of the United Nations, be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and be included in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 29 April 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: English]

S-DM-13-014681

Bogotá, 22 April 2013

Under customary international law, the Republic of Colombia exercises, *ipso facto etab initio* and by virtue of its sovereignty over its land, sovereign rights over its continental shelf in the Caribbean Sea and in the Pacific Ocean. In accordance with customary international law, the Republic of Colombia's continental shelf comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance. Also in accordance with customary international law, the Republic of Colombia's islands, regardless of their size, enjoy the same maritime rights as the country's other land territory.

The Republic of Colombia shall never accept that its enjoyment and exercise of these sovereign rights in any way has been or can be affected by a unilateral act or omission of another State. Any attempt to affect those rights, including but not limited to the submission of preliminary or definitive documentation to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, shall be (or should be deemed to be) objected to by the Republic of Colombia. The Republic of Colombia shall take all steps required to ensure its continued enjoyment and exercise of these sovereign rights, consistent with international law.

I request that the present statement be circulated to all members of the United Nations and to all relevant organs, bodies and entities of the United Nations, be posted on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and be included in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin.

(Signed) María Ángela **Holguín Cuellar**

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