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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 11 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman (see annex) regarding the submission to the Secretariat of the United Nations by the United Arab Emirates of lists of geographical coordinates relating to the maritime baseline of points specifying the straight baselines on its coasts.

The letter of the Foreign Ministry of the Sultanate of Oman reflects the Sultanate of Oman's disagreement with the Emirati coordinates and further enforces the sovereignty of the Sultanate of Oman over its territorial waters, in accordance with the Agreement concluded between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates relating to the border sectors from east of Al-Uqaydat to Al-Dara, signed on 22 June 2002.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (a).

(Signed) Mohamed **Al Hassan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 11 January 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Oman to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Letter dated 4 December 2022 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Oman addressed to the Secretary-General

Oman draws attention to maritime zone notification M.Z.N.160.2022.LOS of 20 September 2022, which the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs distributed on 22 September 2022. That notification contains United Arab Emirates Cabinet resolution 35 (2022) concerning the application of the straight baseline system to the coasts of the United Arab Emirates, which was published on 15 April 2022 in issue No. 725 of the *Official Gazette* of the United Arab Emirates.

Oman reiterates to the States Members of the United Nations that the coordinates set out in the aforementioned resolution infringe on the maritime areas of Oman and clearly violate the Border Agreement between the Sultanate of Oman and the United Arab Emirates concerning the Boundary Sectors from Eastern Uqaidat to Darah, which the countries signed on 22 June 2002. In addition, they are contrary to the basis for the delimitation of maritime boundaries under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, because the straight baselines of the United Arab Emirates extend to the maritime areas of Oman pursuant to that resolution.

Oman rejects and protests against the aforementioned resolution, and will not consider the resolution and the basepoints and straight baselines set out therein as having any effect on the maritime areas of Oman and the aforementioned Agreement. Oman underscores that those basepoints and straight baselines have no value or significance in relation to the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the two countries.

Oman reserves the right to take such measures as it deems appropriate to protect its rights and interests in accordance with international law.

Oman considers the present document to be an official document and requests that the Secretariat take the necessary steps to circulate it to the delegations of Member States in accordance with established procedures.
