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

Letter dated 24 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 9 January 2023 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/77/691](#)) concerning the application of the straight baseline system to the coasts of the United Arab Emirates.

On the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates in response to the note verbale of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated to Member States and issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a).

(Signed) Lana Nusseibeh
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 24 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Note verbale from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates presents its compliments to the Secretariat.

I write in reference to the note verbale dated 9 January 2023 from the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/77/691](#)). The United Arab Emirates categorically rejects the claim in the aforementioned note verbale that the State's straight baselines are contrary to the international law of the sea.

Those lines were delineated in Cabinet Resolution No. 35 (2022) and, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, article 16, paragraph 2, they were deposited with the Secretary-General on 28 July 2022 and 31 August 2022.

The United Arab Emirates stresses that the straight baselines that it has deposited with the Secretary-General entail all the legal effects guaranteed by the international law of the sea in its maritime areas in the Arabian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman.

The United Arab Emirates considers the present note to be an official document and asks the Secretariat to publish and circulate it in accordance with United Nations procedures.

The Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations in New York takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.
