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

Note verbale dated 18 March 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations hereby refers to Amiri Decree No. 4 (2019) of the United Arab Emirates on the declaration of Yasat as a marine protected area.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to forward a memorandum (see annex) from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia affirming the rejection by the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the declaration made in the aforementioned decree of the United Arab Emirates, as it contradicts international law.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia upholds all its positions outlined in its previous memorandums and reiterates that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not recognize any actions or practices taken by the Government of the United Arab Emirates in the maritime area off the coast of Saudi Arabia, including the territorial sea of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the joint sovereign area between the two countries and the islands of Makaseb and Qafai.

The Mission kindly requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75 (a), and published in the next issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 18 March 2024 from the
Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations
addressed to the Secretary-General**

[Original: Arabic]

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and hereby refers to Amiri Decree No. 4 (2019) of the United Arab Emirates on the declaration of the Yasat area as a marine reserve.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms that it rejects and does not recognize that declaration, nor does it acknowledge that the declaration has any legal effect. It asserts all its rights and interests in accordance with the border agreement that the two countries concluded on 3 Sha‘ban A.H. 1394 (21 August A.D. 1974), which is binding on the parties thereto under international law.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia does not recognize any actions or practices, or the implications thereof, on the part of the Government of the United Arab Emirates in the maritime area off the Saudi coast, including the territorial sea of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the area over which the two countries have joint sovereignty and the islands of Makasib and Qaffay. In addition, those actions or practices do not establish any rights for the United Arab Emirates, nor do they affect the rights of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, which reaffirms everything that it has stated in its previous memorandums regarding this matter.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia once again calls upon the Government of the United Arab Emirates to complete the implementation of article 5 of the agreement concerning the delimitation of land and maritime boundaries between the two countries dated 3 Sha‘ban A.H. 1394 (21 August A.D. 1974).

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia considers the present communication to be an official document and asks the Secretariat to register and publish it and to circulate it to all Member States, in accordance with United Nations procedures.
