

Translated from Spanish

Permanent Mission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations

Ref: 090/C-1/10

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to submit for his consideration comments from Equatorial Guinea expressing the Government's disagreement regarding the document deposited with the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") on 11 May 2009 by the Government of Cameroon as preliminary information on the outer limits of the continental shelf of Cameroon.

The comments of the Government of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea are as follows:

1. The Government of Equatorial Guinea has reviewed the document dated 11 May 2009 from Cameroon and considers that it has no basis in law or in fact.
2. Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon share a common maritime boundary, which is the equidistance line. In addition, Equatorial Guinea has agreements with the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe determining the outer limits of the continental shelf of Equatorial Guinea where it adjoins the limits of the continental shelves of those States. Cameroon's document of 11 May 2009 disregards those legal facts and is making a claim on the outer continental shelf that does not conform with Cameroon's rights and obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
3. The Government of Equatorial Guinea opposes Cameroon's implied claim for an outer continental shelf that extends beyond the equidistance line between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon, or that does not conform with Cameroon's rights and obligations under UNCLOS in any other way.
4. As recognized in paragraph 1 of the Annex to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, the competence with respect to matters regarding disputes which may arise in connection with the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf rests with States.
5. The Government of Equatorial Guinea notes that it has not given, nor does it have any intention of giving, its consent, in accordance with paragraph 5 of Annex 1 of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, for the Commission to consider the document of 11 May 2009 from

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Cameroon or any subsequent submission from Cameroon involving a claim on the continental shelf beyond the equidistance line between Equatorial Guinea and Cameroon, or that does not conform with Cameroon's rights and obligations under UNCLOS in any other way.

The Government of Equatorial Guinea respectfully requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to register and circulate the present letter and to publish it in the Law of the Sea Bulletin and any other relevant United Nations publication.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretary-General the renewed assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 22 December 2009
