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

Letter dated 13 March 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 21 December 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/685](#)) 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 (see annex) in response to the note verbale of the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia.

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 13 March 2024 from the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Note verbale dated 11 March 2024 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates

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

With reference to the note verbale dated 21 December 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/685](#)), the United Arab Emirates categorically rejects the claim in the aforementioned note verbale that the straight baselines of the United Arab Emirates contravene international law. These lines were determined by Cabinet Decision No. 35 (2022) in accordance with article 16, paragraph 2 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

The United Arab Emirates reiterates that the straight baselines, which it has deposited with the Secretary-General, have all the legal effects guaranteed to them in the maritime zones of the United Arab Emirates under the international law of the sea.

The Government of the United Arab Emirates considers the present note verbale to be an official document and requests that the Secretariat publish and circulate it in accordance with United Nations practice.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.
