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

Note verbale dated 4 February 2025 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 refers to the note verbale dated 11 March 2024 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates ([A/78/811](#), annex) concerning the application of the straight baseline system to its coasts.

In this regard, the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has the honour to forward a memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (see annex) in response to the aforementioned note verbale. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia categorically rejects and does not recognize what was stated in the note verbale dated 11 March 2024 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates, nor does it recognize any legal implications arising therefrom, as it contravenes the border agreement concluded by the two countries on 21 August 1974, as well as the rules and provisions of international law.

Furthermore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its positions as stated in its memorandum No. 92/18/98744 dated 9 August 2009 addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates and in 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](#)) regarding the objection of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Arab Emirates declaration about the straight baselines of its coasts.

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia 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 4 February 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Memorandum from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia addressed to the Secretary-General

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the United Nations and would like to refer to the note verbale dated 11 March 2024 from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates addressed to the Secretary-General (A/78/811, annex) in response 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, annex) concerning what is stated in the declaration by the United Arab Emirates of the application of the straight baseline system to its coasts, published on the United Nations website under M.Z.N.160.2022.LOS of 20 September 2022.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia completely rejects what is stated in the United Arab Emirates note verbale of 11 March 2024 and does not recognize it or any legal effect arising therefrom.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia wishes to point out that the straight baselines opposite the Saudi Arabian coast declared by the United Arab Emirates have no relationship to the coast of the United Arab Emirates. They deviate significantly from the general direction of the United Arab Emirates coast, in violation of article 5 of the boundary agreement concluded between the two brotherly countries on 21 August 1974, as well as the rules and provisions of international law in general and the relevant articles of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in particular article 7 thereof. We note that article 16, paragraph 2, provides for declaration and deposit, but has no bearing on the drawing of straight baselines.

The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia also reiterates what it stated in its previous memorandum No. 92/18/98744 dated 9 August 2009 addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates concerning the protest by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the declaration by the United Arab Emirates declaration of straight baselines, a copy of which has been provided to the Secretary-General, and 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 protest by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia of the straight baselines declared by United Arab Emirates on its coasts.

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

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia takes this opportunity to convey to the Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.