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## **1. INTRODUCTION AND OBJECTIVES**

The Co-operative Republic of Guyana signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1833, p. 3) on 10 December 1982 and it became a State Party to the Convention when it deposited the sixtieth instrument of ratification on 16 November 1993. In accordance with article 308, the Convention entered into force twelve months later on 16 November 1994. Guyana acceded to the Agreement relating to the implementation of Part XI of the United Nations Convention on 25 September 2008.

The continental shelf under national jurisdiction is defined under paragraph 1 of article 76 of the Convention as:

The continental margin, in turn, is defined under paragraph 3 of article 76 of the Convention as:

The outer limits of the continental shelf are prescribed under paragraph 2 of article 76 not to exceed the combination of rules referred to in paragraphs 4 to 6:

The Convention also establishes a procedure for the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles by the coastal State based on the recommendations made by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) in relation to a submission of information on the limits as described in paragraph 8 of article 76:

The above procedure is further elaborated in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention with the addition of a temporal requirement and a request designed to inform the Commission:

The Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to the Convention, held from 14 to 18 May 2001, noted that it was only after the adoption of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines by the Commission on 13 May 1999 that States had before them the basic documents concerning submissions in accordance with article 76, paragraph 8, of the Convention. Considering the problems encountered by States Parties, in particular developing countries, including small-island

developing States, in complying with the time limit set out in article 4 of Annex II to the Convention; the Meeting of States Parties (SPLOS/72) decided that:

The Government of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana has identified its continental margin as a region over which it can extend its national jurisdiction over the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured.

The Convention recognizes that competence with respect to the delimitation of international maritime boundaries which may arise in connection with the establishment of the outer limits of the continental shelf rests with States accordtatesthe contine.8(tmity dagraph55 4 of Annex 8ntine3)ine:8 -1.725.

The distinction between the delimitation of international continental shelf boundaries and the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf is further reinforced by a savings provision contained in paragraph 4 of article 134:

However, the Convention, in article 9 of Annex II, also urges the Commission to take a cautious approach during the consideration of submissions and the preparation of its recommendations:

In this sense, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana makes a Submission of data and information concerning the outer limits of the continental shelf along the northern part of its continental margin for the consideration of the CLCS without prejudice to any potential boundary delimitations with any other States which may be conducted at a later date.

In light of the relevant provisions contained in the Convention, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana makes this submission through the Secretary-General to the Commission:

- i) to fulfil its obligations pursuant to paragraph 8 of article 76 of, and article 4 of Annex II to the Convention;
- ii) in accordance with the methodology contained in paragraphs 1 to 7 of article 76 of the Convention; and

- iii) without prejudice to questions relating to the delimitation of international boundaries with any other States.

Accordingly, the Co-operative Republic of Guyana reserves the right to determine the outer limit of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles based on the recommendations of the Commission, and any potential maritime boundary agreements made with other States at a later date.

This submission contains data and information used in support of the determination of the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana in accordance with the Convention and the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS/11; CLCS/11/Corr. 1; CLCS/11/Add. 1; CLCS/11/Add. 1/Corr. 1).

## **2. THE OUTER LIMIT OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF**

The Convention offers two complementary provisions designed to provide the definition of the continental margin and the breadth of its outer limit. The first provision, contained in paragraph 3 of article 76, provides its definition:

The second provision, contained in paragraph 4 (a) (i) and (ii), subject to paragraphs 5 and 6 of article 76, determines the position of the outer limit of the continental margin by means of a complex formula based on four rules. Two of these rules are affirmative and the remaining two are negative. The two positive rules, herein referred to as \_\_\_\_\_, are connected through an inclusive disjunction:





The extent of the outer envelope formed by the lines derived from the two is restricted by a line derived from the two lines, defined by the Commission as constraints. According to paragraph 5, the simultaneous application of these two constraints defines the outer limit beyond which the continental shelf cannot be extended:

extend the outer limits of its continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and to determine the coordinates of these limits.

Geophysical data was applied with the dual purpose to demonstrate the continuity of the sedimentary apron from the continental slope throughout the outer limit of the continental margin, as proof that it meets the Test of Appurtenance described in section 2.2 of the CLCS Scientific and Technical Guidelines, and to estimate sediment thickness beyond 200 nautical miles to determine the position of the outermost fixed points at each of which the thickness of sedimentary rocks is at least 1 per cent of the shortest distance from such point to the foot of the continental slope during the implementation of the sediment thickness formula (Article 76, Paragraph 4 (i)). These fixed points contribute to the determination of the outer limit of the continental shelf of Guyana beyond 200 nautical miles.

The search for the base of the continental slope was conducted by means of evidence to the contrary provision contained in article 76 4 (b) and Chapter 7 of the Scientific and Technical Guidelines of the CLCS. The foot of the continental slope points were also determined by means of evidence to the contrary to the general rule of maximum change in the gradient due to the almost constant curvature shown by the continental slope and rise of Guyana.

## **2.2 THE FOOT OF THE CONTINENTAL SLOPE PLUS 60 M FORMULA**

The Bathymetric and morphological information was assembled in order to demonstrate that the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond the territorial sea to the outer edge of the continental margin are the natural prolongation of the land territory of Guyana to the outer edge of the continental margin (Article 76, Paragraph 1). Morphological criteria were implemented to demonstrate the legal entitlement of Guyana to extend the outer limits of the continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles and to determine the coordinates of these limits.





The UNEP Shelf Programme at GRID-Arendal in

Table 1. List of coordinates of latitude and longitude of the turning points determined in accordance with paragraph 7 of article 76 which define the outer limit of the continental shelf of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana beyond 200 nautical miles at distances not exceeding 60 nautical miles.

<b>Outer Limit of the continental shelf</b>	<b>Latitude N</b>	<b>Longitude E</b>	<b>Distance nautical miles</b>
OL-Guy-1	11° 48' 09.18"	54° 33' 47.05"	20.816
OL-Guy-2	12° 03' 19.20'	54° 48' 24.12"	17.787
OL-Guy-3	11° 51' 26.39"	55° 01' 57.70"	59.998
OL-Guy-4	11° 35' 43.57"	56° 01' 00.00"	



Figure 1. The outer limits of the continental shelf of the Co-operative Republic of Guyana (red line) beyond 200 nautical miles (black line) measured from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured according to paragraph 7 by straight lines not exceeding 60 nautical miles in length, connecting fixed points, defined by coordinates of latitude and longitude.