



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY THE
REPUBLIC OF VANUATU TO THE
COMMISSION ON THE LIMITS OF THE
CONTINENTAL SHELF

Preliminary Information Submitted by the Republic of Vanuatu to
the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf

1. The Republic of Vanuatu is a State Party to the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (the Convention) having ratified the Convention on 10 August 1999.

2. The Republic of Vanuatu is mindful of its obligations under the Convention and of the importance of the work of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (the Commission) for coastal States and the international community as a whole.

3. Pursuant to the Decision regarding the workload of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and the ability of States, particularly small island developing States, to fulfill the requirements of article 4 of Annex II to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea as well as the decision contained in SPIOS/72 paragraph (a) (SPIOS/183) Vanuatu has prepared the continental shelf extension from the islands of Mathew Leka and Hunter (Umanunne) of its continental margin.

4. The Republic of Vanuatu recognizes that the islands of Mathew (Leka) and Hunter (Umanunne) of the Republic of Vanuatu and the continental margin which extends from them are land territory and maritime zones over which there is a dispute between the Republic of Vanuatu and the French Republic. This maritime boundary dispute has not been settled in accordance with international law.

5. The Republic of Vanuatu also recognizes that maritime boundary delimitations remain outstanding between Vanuatu and the French Republic and the Republic of the Fiji Islands. Pursuant to Article 76, paragraph 10 and Article 9 of Annex II to the Convention, this preliminary information is submitted without prejudice to those delimitations and to any other future maritime delimitation between Vanuatu and any other coastal State.

6. The Republic of Vanuatu acknowledges the decision taken by the government of the French Republic in the Note Verbale dated 18 July 2007 to request the Commission not to consider the disputed islands and their disputed continental margin in the partial submission dated 22 May 2007.

7. The Republic of Vanuatu has commenced work on the preparation of the partial submission in respect of this area. In this regard, the Republic of Vanuatu

submitted local, policy and technical expertise in the preparation of the
 submission.

8. In addition to the resources that the Government of the Republic of Vanuatu
 has committed to this work, it is considering to make an application for
 assistance to the United Nations Trust Fund for the purpose of facilitating the
 preparation of a study on the continental shelf for developing States, in particular the least developed countries and
 Nations on the Law of the Sea for the purpose of specialized technical
 training for this purpose.

9. The Republic of Vanuatu intends to lodge its Submission in the Commission
 in the performance of its functions under the Convention in an
 efficient and timely manner. In this regard, the Republic of Vanuatu will
 continue to take advantage of all available data and opportunities for
 scientific and technical capacity building, advice and assistance in order to

10. The Republic of Vanuatu notes that in accordance with operative paragraph
 1(d) of S/RES/183, the preliminary information submitted by Vanuatu concerning
 continental shelf region of the islands of Hunter (Teka) and Mathew (Maenunna)
 is considered by the Commission.

11. The Republic of Vanuatu notes that in accordance with operative
 paragraph 1(e) of S/RES/183, the preliminary information submitted by Vanuatu
 is without prejudice to the future Submission concerning this region and its consideration
 by the Commission.

12. The Republic of Vanuatu requests that the Secretary-General of the United
 Nations inform the Commission and other member States of the receipt of this
 preliminary information in accordance with operative paragraph 1(d) of S/RES/183.

Donald Johnston
 Vanuatu Ambassador to the United Nations

SECRETARY GENERAL
 UNITED NATIONS
 NEW YORK

