

PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

TO THE UNITED NATIONS

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PMV/MES/NY/07/2001

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Vanuatu to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, as the depositary for the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and draws his attention to the following observations of the Republic of Vanuatu, made from the amendment in final of the Treaty of the Pacific Forum on the Law of the Sea on the Limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone Commissioned by the Commission on the Limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Republic of Vanuatu notes with satisfaction paragraph 7.1 of the Statement by the Chairman of the Commission on the limits of the Exclusive Economic Zone on the progress of work in the Commission at its Twenty-fourth session held in New York on 10 August-11 September 2001 (COP.11.C.1/64) which 2000 was signed in Mexico City from the Republic of Vanuatu dated 12 August 2000. It also notes with satisfaction the rules of procedure with reference to disputes in the area.

The Republic of Vanuatu again notes that the Executive Summary of the Final Submission fails to comply with the substantive and procedural requirements of UNCLOS and with the Rules of Procedure of the Commission. In particular, the amended information of the perch previous submission asserts Vanuatu's claims to an area that the Republic of Vanuatu has officially claimed attachment to that maritime area is still subject to a dispute between Fiji and the Republic of Vanuatu despite ongoing maritime boundary negotiations.

In that regard, the Republic of Vanuatu reiterates that it is of the opinion that consideration of the Partial Guidance Note given the failure existence for a maritime dispute described in its Note Verbale dated 12 August 2000, and pursuant to Article 73 of UNCLOS and Annex I of the Rules of Procedure of the Commission, that the actions of the Commission shall not provide any basis for determining boundaries between Fiji and Vanuatu.

As with the Note Verbale dated 12 August 2000, this Note Verbale is without prejudice to the agreement of the preliminary information that was provided to the Commission by Fiji, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands concerning the South Fiji-Kiribati Region.

The Republic of Vanuatu reserves its rights to submit further comments in relation to the partial submission of Fiji, as and when more qualified assessments are conducted, including assessment of the right of self-determination.

The Republic of Vanuatu requests that the Secretary-General of the United Nations inform the Commission and Treaty Body of the results of the Note Verbale.

The Permanent Mission of Vanuatu in the United Nations remains keen at this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations its substance concerns highest consideration.

New York, 18 July 2017



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