



United Kingdom Mission
to the United Nations
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The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and, in accordance with Article 76(8) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("UNCLOS"), has the honour to transmit herewith the submission of the United Kingdom to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf ("the Commission") relating to the continental shelf of Ascension Island.

The United Kingdom will be preparing a number of other partial submissions to the Commission, which it will make prior to the deadline of May 2009.

However, as regards Antarctica, the United Kingdom recalls the principles and objectives shared by the Antarctic Treaty and UNCLOS, and the importance of the Antarctic system and UNCLOS working in harmony and thereby ensuring the continuing peaceful cooperation, security and stability in the Antarctic area.

The United Kingdom notes also the relevant provisions of UNCLOS, including its Article 77, which provides *inter alia* that the rights of the coastal State over the continental shelf do not depend on any express proclamation, and recalls the decisions of Meetings of the States Parties to UNCLOS and the rules of the Commission.

The United Kingdom has regard to the circumstances of the area south of 60 degrees South latitude and the special legal and political status of Antarctica under the provisions of the Antarctic Treaty, including its article IV, and notes that appurtenant to Antarctica there exist areas of continental shelf the extent of which has yet to be defined. It is open to the States concerned to submit information to the Commission which would not be examined by it for the time being, or to make a partial submission not including such areas of continental shelf, for which a submission may be made later, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to UNCLOS and the subsequent decision on its application taken by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS.



Accordingly, in its partial submissions, made in accordance with the Commission's rules, the United Kingdom will not include areas of continental shelf appurtenant to Antarctica, for which a submission may be made later, notwithstanding the provisions regarding the ten-year period established by article 4 of Annex II to UNCLOS and the subsequent decision on its application taken by the Eleventh Meeting of States Parties to UNCLOS.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom requests that this note be placed on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea, together with the Executive Summary of the submission relating to Ascension Island, in fulfilment of the requirements of the Commission's Rules of Procedure.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



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