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Question of Cyprus

Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 13 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

With reference to the letter dated 25 April 2019 ([A/73/850-S/2019/344](#)) from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Greece, the note verbale from the Greek Cypriot Administration of 4 May 2019 and the letter dated 11 July 2019 ([A/73/944-S/2019/564](#)) from the representative of the Greek Cypriot Administration addressed to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and recalling Turkey's numerous letters and notes verbales, I would like to bring to your attention the following considerations.

At the outset, I would like to reiterate that Turkey, as the country with the longest continental coastline in the Eastern Mediterranean, has already submitted to the United Nations, inter alia, through the Turkish Permanent Mission's Notes Nos. 2004/Turkuno DT/4739, dated 2 March 2004, 2005/Turkuno DT/16390, dated 4 October 2005, No. 2013/14136816/22273, dated 12 March 2013, and letters dated 25 April 2014 ([A/68/857](#)) and 18 March 2019 ([A/73/804](#)), as well as the Permanent Mission's numerous letters and notes, which have also been published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the relevant *Law of the Sea Bulletins* that Turkey has ipso facto and ab initio legal and sovereign rights in the maritime areas of the Eastern Mediterranean that are west of meridian 32°16'18"E.

As reiterated by Turkey on numerous occasions, the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf beyond the western parts of longitude 32°16'18"E should be effected by agreement between the related States in the region, based on the principle of equity with a view to reaching equitable delimitation.

In this respect, based on international law, it is Turkey's well-considered position that the outer limits of the Turkish continental shelf in the above-mentioned maritime areas follow the median line between the Turkish and Egyptian coastlines to a point to be determined in the west of 28°00'00"E, in accordance with the outcome of future delimitation agreements in the Aegean Sea, as well as in the Mediterranean,



among all relevant States, in accordance with equitable principles, taking all the special and relevant circumstances into account based on international law.

In the light of the foregoing, Turkey rejects in toto the unilateral deposit by the Greek Cypriot Administration of a list of geographical coordinates of points, accompanied by an illustrative map (as issued in the Circular Communication from the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea/Office of Legal Affairs of 7 May 2019), concerning the northern and north-western outer limits of the so-called exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the Greek Cypriot Administration. Turkey also rejects the letter dated 25 April 2019 from the Chargé d'affaires of Greece, which, contrary to international law, claims that delimitation of the continental shelf or the exclusive economic zone between States with opposite coasts (both continental and insular) should take place on the basis of the equidistance/median line principle.

According to the pertinent rules of international law, including articles 74 (1) and 83 (1), reflecting customary international law, of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the delimitation of the continental shelf or exclusive economic zone between States with opposite or adjacent coasts shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law, as referred to in Article 38 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, in order to achieve an equitable solution. According to international law, including State practice, customary international law, international adjudication and jurisprudence, the equidistance/median line method is applied only when its application does not distort equitable delimitation.

Turkey once again reiterates that it stands ready today, as it has in the past, to give its full support to ensure a just, equitable and peaceful resolution to all pending issues, including the equitable delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas with all relevant coastal States that it recognizes and with which it has diplomatic relations, in accordance with international law, in order to further contribute to the stability and prosperity of the whole Mediterranean basin. As far as the western part of the island of Cyprus is concerned, this would only be possible after a comprehensive political settlement.

In view of the above, a list of geographical coordinates, concerning the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, where Turkey exercises ipso facto and ab initio exclusive sovereign rights and jurisdiction stemming from international law is attached herewith.

I would be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 41 and 74, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Feridun H. **Sinirlioğlu**
Permanent Representative

Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

List of geographical coordinates concerning the outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf in the Eastern Mediterranean

A. Geographical coordinates of the Turkish continental shelf between the longitudes of 32-16-18.000E and 34-48-51.634E in the eastern Mediterranean, as established by the Continental Shelf Delimitation Agreement between Turkey and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, signed on 21 September 2011 in New York

1.	35-33-09.584N	32-16-18.000E
2.	35-33-41.913N	32-21-12.349E
3.	35-33-47.278N	32-31-50.801E
4.	35-35-38.364N	32-37-51.980E
5.	35-37-58.043N	32-46-34.195E
6.	35-39-53.677N	32-56-36.616E
7.	35-40-59.868N	33-02-50.096E
8.	35-40-55.189N	33-10-19.709E
9.	35-41-19.465N	33-19-40.157E
10.	35-40-58.546N	33-23-18.544E
11.	35-41-14.617N	33-32-33.838E
12.	35-41-45.874N	33-38-16.025E
13.	35-42-04.417N	33-45-08.528E
14.	35-42-29.670N	33-53-00.873E
15.	35-43-50.531N	34-02-48.043E
16.	35-45-06.627N	34-06-06.897E
17.	35-45-44.498N	34-10-13.085E
18.	35-48-11.903N	34-14-21.393E
19.	35-49-46.780N	34-18-51.643E
20.	35-51-41.517N	34-24-51.492E
21.	35-52-57.081N	34-28-43.550E
22.	35-54-25.608N	34-33-30.506E
23.	35-54-42.208N	34-36-28.498E

B. Geographical coordinates of the Turkish continental shelf between the longitudes of 32-16-18.000E and 28-00-00.000E in the eastern Mediterranean (Coordinates of the median line between relevant Turkish and Egyptian coasts facing the Mediterranean)*.**

A
33°53'03".700N
28°00'00".000E

B
33°46'37".982N
28°22'32".752E

C
33°42'10".738N
28°41'14".431E

D
33°40'51".422N
28°46'24".339E

E
33°44'42".734N
29°20'18".089E

F
33°49'51".799N
30°14'28".443E

G
33°50'40".770N
30°18'34".016E

H
33°54'00".509N
30°53'29".646E

I
33°54'58".407N
31°04'19".857E

J
33°56'42".089N
31°21'27".702E

K
33°51'54".050N
31°43'52".936E

L
33°51'18".290N
31°46'24".013E

M
33°50'21".651N
31°53'04".910E

N
33°47'04".112N
32°16'18".000E

* Subject to a bilateral agreement to be reached between Turkey and Egypt.

** The geographical coordinates in sections B and C could be reviewed and/or modified in accordance with the outcomes of future delimitation agreements with relevant coastal States in the region, as well as the implementation of the system of straight baselines and/or the exercise of the right of historic bays by Turkey as provided for in international law.

C. The outer limits of Turkey's continental shelf between the geographical coordinates 35-33-09.584N 32°-16'-18".000E and 33°47'04".112N 32°16'18".000E**

Straight line connecting 35-33-09.584N 32°-16'-18".000E and 33°47'04".112N 32°16'18".000E, except foreign territorial waters.

D. Geographical coordinates of the Turkish continental shelf beyond longitude 28-00-00.000E

Turkey reserves its rights to further submit the geographical coordinates of the Turkish continental shelf to the west of longitude 28-00-00.000E, which extends to the outer limits of territorial waters of the islands facing the relevant area in the Mediterranean, given that the insular features in that maritime area cannot encroach upon and/or cut off Turkey's coastal projection and continental shelf.
