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Agenda item 74 (a)

**Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea**

**Letter dated 19 March 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General**

With regard to the letter dated 27 February 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to you ([A/74/727](#)), I would like to state the following:

- The annex to the aforementioned letter contains geographical coordinates (point A, 34°16'13.720"N – 26°19'11.640"E, and point B, 34°09'07.9"N – 26°39'06.3"E) of a professed Turkish continental shelf as purportedly established by what is being referred to as “the delimitation agreement” between Turkey and the Government of National Accord of Libya (i.e. the “Memorandum of understanding between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of National Accord State of Libya”, signed on 27 November 2019).
- As stated in my letter dated 9 December 2019, annexed to the letter dated 14 February 2020 ([A/74/706](#)) addressed to you, and for reasons duly mentioned therein, the aforementioned “delimitation agreement” blatantly violates the rules of the international law of the sea and disregards the sovereign rights of Greece and other States in the region.
- I therefore reiterate my country’s position that the said Memorandum produces no effect whatsoever and is rejected in its entirety, as clearly stated in my aforementioned letter.
- In addition, the above geographical coordinates, as such, are fictitious, illegal and arbitrary, as they violate the right of the Greek islands in that maritime area to generate maritime zones as any land territory, a rule clearly stipulated in article 121(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, which reflects customary international law. In this respect, Greece reiterates its position expressed in the letter dated 19 February 2020 addressed to you ([A/74/710](#)).
- In the light of the above and as a result, Greece strongly rejects the coordinates of the purported Turkish continental shelf, contained in the letter from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations. These coordinates are void of any legal consequences and cannot be invoked against Greece. In this context, Greece reserves its rights under international law.

I would be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a), and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Maria Theofili  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative