

Comments by Nigeria on S-23 WG Letter No.3/2011

1. We would like to acknowledge with thanks the impeccable Job the Chair and the secretary have been doing to put together the comprehensive report –S-23 WG letter No.3 dated 24 may 2011. As was observed earlier, there was no clear consensus on naming the sea area between Korean peninsula and Japanese Archipelago. Thus, Nigeria is of the view that paragraph 4.1 bullet points 3 and 4 should accommodate the aspirations of the other parties concerned. This would enable the Member States to make appropriate inputs. Consequently, our proposal is that the point should be revised as follows:

- Whether the name “Japan Sea” appearing in the 3rd edition could be used in naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago **or the ‘Japan Sea’ and ‘East Sea’** as proposed by ROK be used concurrently noting that consensus has not been achieved between the members of the WG and considering the positions and views expressed;
- In Paragraph 4.1 bullet points 4, the bracket example **(this can apply in the case of naming the sea area between the Korean Peninsula and the Japanese Archipelago)** may not be necessary since the countries concerned have not agreed with the option.

2. It is also instructive to remind ourselves that during the second meeting in Singapore, the three parties (namely, Japan, ROK, and North Korea) presented to members compelling evidences of long usage of the respective names. Thus, there was no unified document supporting any of the claims. This should have given the WG the latitude to support both names (Japan Sea and East Sea) concurrently on the same page. Considering the uniqueness of the case which we feel would not set any negative precedence, both names should be used concurrently on the same page.

3. In view of the foregoing, it may not be appropriate to forward the report to member states until this issue is resolved conclusively. Furthermore, even if paragraph 4.1 is revised, it does not remove the fact that consensus has not been reached on the matter.

AA MUSTAPHA
Commander
S-23 Member –Nigeria
1st July 2011