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**Sujet:**Re: S-23 WG Letter 03/2011 - Report to MS

**Date :**Fri, 24 Jun 2011 23:39:41 +0400

**De :**Thani Harith al Mahrouki <los@omantel.net.om>

**Pour :**<mhuet@ihb.mc>

Dear Michel,

Please find my comments below on S23 WG Letter No. 03/2011,

1. Referring to the final bullet point of 4.1 of the letter, it is recommended to remove the suggested Geographical Limits of the Strait of Hormuz as detailed in the 2002 draft edition because it contains errors or wait for further suggestions from Oman prior distributing it to member states. It is suggested currently to use the description and limits for this area as published in the S23 3<sup>rd</sup> valid Edition which did not have the geographical limits of the strait.

2. Referring to point Number 4.2, USA pointed out that; "WG's RoP states that "Decisions should generally be made by consensus" without adequately defining the term consensus.....". I agree that consensus is not well defined, sometimes confusing and it depends on the way the sentence is phrased. For instant, paragraph 2.8 of the above letter, stated that it was decided "The proposal from Oman to change the "Gulf of Oman" to "Sea of Oman" did not receive enough support " During the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting 13 members of the working group were present including Oman out of 27 states. After a recommendation of one state and not an objection, supported by another state, it was decided to conclude as it did not have enough support and no consideration was further asked from the rest of the WG on this issue. Is consensus taken from those who are present in the meeting or from the whole WG? Stronger weight should be given to bordering states of a water body or area. When the name was changed to "Sea of Oman" a wide publicity was given and no objection was received!

Kind regards,

Thani