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Guinea-Bissau brings a new case against Senegal

The following information is communicated to the Press by the Registry of the International Court of Justice:

On 12 March 1991, the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of Senegal in a dispute concerning the delimitation of all the maritime territories of those two States.

In its Application, Guinea-Bissau recalls that, by an Application dated 23 August 1989, it referred to the Court a dispute concerning the existence and validity of the Arbitral Award made on 31 July 1989 by the Arbitration Tribunal formed to determine the maritime boundary between the two States (see Press Communiqué No. 89/17 of 24 August 1989).

Guinea-Bissau claims that the objective of the request laid before the Arbitration Tribunal was the delimitation of the maritime territories appertaining respectively to one and the other State, without excluding from the jurisdiction of the Tribunal any of the categories of territory over which the contemporary Law of the Sea now permits a coastal state to exercise rights, but that it was obvious, when the result of the Arbitration was made known on 31 July 1989, that it was not such as to make possible a definitive delimitation of all the maritime areas over which the Parties had rights and that, at the close of the proceedings pending before the Court and whatever might be their outcome, the delimitation of all the maritime territories would still not have been effected.

While reserving the right to supplement and amend its submissions during the subsequent proceedings, the Government of Guinea-Bissau asks the Court to adjudge and declare:

"What should be, on the basis of the international law of the sea and of all the relevant elements of the case, including the future decision of the Court in the case concerning the Arbitral 'Award' of 31 July 1989, the line (marked on a map) delimiting the whole of the maritime territories appertaining respectively to Guinea-Bissau and Senegal."