



Delegación Permanente  
de la República Argentina  
ante la UNESCO

UNE 139/23

Paris, 2 August 2023

The Permanent Delegation of the Argentine Republic to UNESCO presents its compliments to the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC), in order to transmit that the Argentine Government notes with concern that the General Bathymetric Chart of the Oceans circulated by the IOC Secretariat contains incorrect references to certain forms of submarine relief. These maps were distributed during the 32nd session of the IOC Assembly last June.

In particular, this letter is not in accordance with what was agreed at the Seventh Meeting of the GEBCO Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names (SCUFN) (Monaco, 25-27 April 1987), where it was decided in Items 5.12 and 5.16 to insert under "*Falkland Escarpment*" the name (Malvinas Escarpment)", to insert under "*Falkland Ridge*" the name (Malvinas Ridge)" and to insert under "*Falkland Plateau*" the name (Malvinas Plateau)".

Furthermore, the Argentine Government objects to the references used to name the underwater landforms of the Argentine Republic included in the said letter as "*Georgia Basin*", "*Northlast Georgia Rise*", "*South Sandwich Trench*", "*South Sandwich Fracture Zone*", since they are not recognised toponyms and the Argentine national toponymy designates them as "Cuenca de Georgias", "Emersión Noreste de Georgias", "Fosa Oceánica de las Sandwich del Sur" and "Zona de Fractura Sandwich del Sur".

The Government of the Argentine Republic wishes to recall that the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas are an integral part of the Argentine national territory and that, being under illegitimate British occupation, they are in a special and particular colonial situation, recognised by Resolution 2065 (XX) and subsequent resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and by the resolutions of the Special Committee on Decolonisation, which recognises the existence of a sovereignty dispute and urges the parties, i.e. the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, to resume negotiations on sovereignty in order to reach a peaceful solution.



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The Argentine Government would appreciate that publications produced or circulated by the IOC, as well as by the IHO and UNESCO in general, be in line with what was agreed at the Seventh Meeting of the Sub-Committee on Undersea Feature Names and comply with items 5.12 and 5.16 of that meeting.

It would also be appreciated if publications produced or circulated within the scope of that organization, in line with United Nations Editorial Directive ST/CS/SER.A/42, use the dual nomenclature in respect of the Malvinas Islands and include a footnote appropriately reflecting the existence of a dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, in accordance with the following text "A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands".

Furthermore, the Argentine Government requests that the following disclaimer be included in the cartographic representations produced or circulated within the scope of IOC, IHO and UNESCO, both in digital and paper format, in accordance with the provisions of the Annex to Administrative Instruction ST/AI/Add.25/Rev.1: "The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries".

The Permanent Delegation of the Argentine Republic to UNESCO takes this opportunity to renew to the IOC Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration and esteem.



To the Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)  
**UNESCO**