

RELEASE IN PART  
B5

**From:** Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 7:20 PM  
**To:** H  
**Subject:** FW: Challenge to Chinese maritime claims under LOS

FYI

**From:** Arnaudo, Raymond V  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 5:14 PM  
**To:** Sullivan, Jacob J; Ohtagaki, Johna O; Crocker, Bathsheba N  
**Subject:** Challenge to Chinese maritime claims under LOS

[Redacted]

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**Ocean/Fisheries:**

**(SBU) Philippines Initiates Arbitration Against China On South China Sea (SCS)**

**Claims:** Following procedures in the Law of the Sea Convention, the Philippines notified China that it will challenge China's "9 dash line" claims in the SCS. China has 30 days to reply to the Philippines notification. China claims "indisputable sovereignty" over the islands and adjacent waters in the SCS and sovereign rights over the "relevant waters" and seabed but has never clarified the scope of its claims. The dispute settlement procedures in the Convention do not apply to disputes over territory or to boundaries; Philippines is casting its case as interference with its maritime rights, including in its own exclusive economic zone, which is subject to dispute settlement under the Convention. China has not yet commented and [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

[Redacted] (OES/OPA-O'Brien)

**From:** Caraballo, Margarita A  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 22, 2013 4:44 PM  
**To:** OES-Tickler-DG  
**Cc:** OES-Staffers-DG  
**Subject:** OES Assistant Secretary Situation Report for January 22, 2013



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OES Assistant Secretary Situation Report for  
January 22, 2013

**Environment:**

**(U) UN Forum on Forests Discusses Finance in Run-up to High Level Session:** An ad hoc expert group on forest finance of the UN Forum on Forests (UNFF) met in Vienna January 14-18, taking up the longstanding UN debate on how to mobilize financial support for conservation and sustainable management of the world's forests. The G77 appears poised to demand a new voluntary global forest fund, although there are no signs of a donor able or willing to commit funding. The United States, the EU, and other donor countries remain opposed, preferring to strengthen existing mechanisms; improve enabling conditions; and broaden the focus to include private investment, ecosystem services, and linkages to other sectors. The meeting of the experts group was the last intersessional meeting before the 10th session of UNFF (Istanbul, April 8-19), where forest finance will be a priority topic in addition to "Forests and Economic Development" and the role of forests in the UN post-2015 development agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The latter topics will likely be the focus of a UNFF10 ministerial segment April 8-10, which will be hosted by the President of Turkey. (CBarber and CKarr-Colque, OES/ECW)

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[redacted]  
[redacted]  
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SBU  
This email is UNCLASSIFIED.