

*Translated from Arabic*

## **Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations**

Note verbale

The Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, and has the honour to refer to the declaration of maritime boundaries submitted on 24 September 2019 by the State of Palestine pursuant to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The declaration has been published on the website of the Division and includes lists of coordinates of baselines and outer limits of the maritime areas of the State of Palestine. The Permanent Mission of Egypt wishes to make the following points:

I. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt rejects, and does not recognize, the points defining the outer limits of the maritime areas set out in the declaration made by the State of Palestine. That boundary overlaps with the eastern maritime boundary of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Mediterranean, in the following respects:

(a) Table 2 setting out the coordinates of the maritime boundaries of the State of Palestine: from point 1 to point 9.

(b) Table 3 setting out the coordinates of the maritime boundaries of the State of Palestine: from point 1 to point 10.

(c) Table 4 setting out the coordinates of the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf of the State of Palestine: points 1, 2 and 3.

(d) Table 5 setting out the coordinates of the southern limits of the maritime areas of the State of Palestine: points 2, 4 and 5.

II. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt objects to the aforementioned points and refuses to recognize them as the eastern maritime boundary of Egypt, as they are fully located within the maritime areas of the Arab Republic of Egypt. The declaration therefore contravenes the sovereignty of the Arab Republic of Egypt over its territorial waters and impinges on the sovereign rights of Egypt over its exclusive economic zone and its continental shelf in the Mediterranean.

III. The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to state that the aforementioned maritime boundaries are inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and contradict the principles of international law and the practice of the international community. It emphasizes that any effects or outcomes resulting from the establishment of those points would be unacceptable.

IV. When it ratified the Convention, on 11 July 1983, the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt made a declaration to the United Nations, in accordance with article 310 of the Convention, concerning the exercise of its rights over its exclusive economic zone. It therefore does not recognize any assertion of sovereign rights for the purposes of exploring marine resources, whether living or not, within its exclusive economic zone. Part of the northern boundary of that zone, bordering Cyprus, was defined in the agreement on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone concluded between Egypt and Cyprus on 17 February 2003, which entered into force on 7 March 2004 and was deposited with the United Nations on 14 January 2008.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt would be grateful if the present note verbale could be published on the website of the Division and in the forthcoming issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York takes this opportunity to convey to the Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Secretariat, the assurances of its highest consideration.

31 December 2019

To: Division of Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs, United Nations Secretariat.

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