



Note Verbale No. 1767/2025

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Tourism of the Republic of Malta presents its compliments to the esteemed Embassy of the State of Libya and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale dated 27 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) regarding the outer limits of Libya's continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea (UN Doc No A/79/2016).

The Ministry wishes to respectfully point out that parts of the continental shelf being claimed by Libya in the aforementioned Note Verbale, which is deposited with the Secretary-General of the UN, encroach on Malta's continental shelf and exclusive economic zone (EEZ), specifically between points 13 and 18 to the east and between points 28 and 31 to the west.

The 1985 International Court of Justice (ICJ) decision *Continental Shelf (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Malta)* was confined between the meridians 13° 50' and 15° 10' due to the claims of a third State as per paragraph 22 of the judgment. In accordance with the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and other sources of international law, Malta is entitled to a continental shelf and EEZ to the east and west of these meridians. Therefore, in the absence of an agreement between Malta and Libya concerning the delimitation of the remaining portions of the continental shelf and EEZ to the east and west of the said 1985 ICJ decision, the median line between Malta and Libya should be adopted east of point 18 and west of point 28 of the aforementioned Note Verbale. Libya incorrectly follows the median line between Italy's mainland including the isle of Sicily and Libya's mainland east of point 18 and west of point 28 of the aforementioned Note Verbale. This unilateral approach taken by Libya through the aforementioned Note Verbale violates international law, including Articles 74 and 83 of UNCLOS.

Furthermore, as stated on numerous occasions, and reiterated again through Note Verbale No. 237/2023/LY dated 20 December 2023, "the Government of Malta cannot accept or recognise the contention that the Gulf of Sirte, South of a line drawn along latitude 32 degrees 30 minutes North is a part of Libyan territory or falls under Libyan Sovereignty. The Government of Malta continues to regard as the baselines for the delimitation of Libyan territorial waters and continental shelf the internationally recognised baselines as applicable prior to October 1973."

In the interest of the excellent friendly relations and cooperation that exist between Malta and Libya, the Ministry wishes to reiterate the desire of Malta to carry out discussions with Libya with a view to achieving an equitable solution on the basis of international law, including UNCLOS Articles 74(1) and 83(1), on the delimitation of the continental shelf and exclusive economic zone east and west of the 1985 ICJ decision.

Valletta, 18 August 2025



Embassy of the State of Libya

BALZAN