



H.E. Mr. António Guterres
Secretary-General
United Nations
New York

23 December 2021

Excellency,

I would like to raise my Government's serious concerns regarding the recent tender issued by the Government of Lebanon to grant offshore licenses in maritime areas where Israel asserts sovereign rights or jurisdiction in accordance with international law, as Israel has conveyed in previous letters dated 2 February 2017, 21 December 2017, 11 July 2019, and most recently 23 November 2021.

The Government of Israel submits its formal objection to any non-consensual Lebanese activity in Israeli maritime areas to which Israel has not explicitly consented. Israel objects to any unauthorized economic activity by Lebanon in this area, including, *inter alia*, the granting of rights by Lebanon to any third party; exploratory activities; drilling; or exploration of natural resources in maritime areas in which Israel asserts sovereign rights or jurisdiction.

Israel is of the view that efforts should be focused on advancing the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon for the delimitation of their maritime boundary, with the aim of reaching an agreed resolution, in a manner that would provide stability and economic benefit for both sides. Therefore, Israel feels obliged to submit its formal objection to the recent activities by Lebanon. Israel calls upon the Government of Lebanon to withdraw this tender and refrain from any activity that would advance any non-consensual activities in Israeli maritime areas.

Israel reiterates its call on all relevant third parties to respect Israel's position and to refrain from participating in, promoting or facilitating, any action that could compromise Israel's rights, and also to refrain from any other involvement in non-consensual economic activities in Israeli maritime areas. Such activity threatens to expose third parties to significant liability.

As Israel has clarified in its previous letter dated 23 November 2021, Israel remains committed to reaching an amicable negotiated resolution on the issue of delimiting our common maritime boundary, and expects Lebanon to demonstrate the same level of commitment.

The Permanent Mission of Israel would be grateful if this letter could be published on the Ocean & Law of the Sea UN website under the countries section of the database on Maritime Space: Maritime Zones Delimitation.¹ In addition, The Permanent Mission of Israel requests to include this information in the next Law of the Sea bulletin.

¹ <https://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/ISR.htm>

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Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Sincerely,

Gilad Erdan
Ambassador of Israel to the United States and the United Nations

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