

**Legislative Decree No. 18880 of 8 June 1971 - General Mining Law**

**Preliminary title**

**Article 1**

This Legislative Decree extends to all matters relating to the exploitation of mineral substances in the soil and subsoil of the national territory and in the sea, the continental margin and the sea-bed and their respective subsoils to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the coast, with the exception of petroleum and similar hydrocarbons, guano deposits and medicinal mineral waters.

Mineral deposits, whatever the nature of the substances they may contain, are the inalienable and imprescriptible property of the State.