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Oceans and the law of the sea

Letter dated 8 September 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a note verbale dated 8 September 2025, from the Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations to the Secretary-General of the United Nations (see annex) in reference to the note verbale from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations dated 27 May 2025 and its attachments, circulated in document [A/79/916](#).

On behalf of the Permanent Mission, I would highly appreciate the circulation of the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 75, in addition to the publication on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and Law of the Sea and in the next issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Osama **Abdelkhalek**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 8 September 2025 from the Permanent Representative of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic]

Note verbale dated 8 September 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York presents its compliments to the United Nations Secretariat. With reference to the note verbale dated 27 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and its annexes ([A/79/916](#)), as well as the note verbale dated 20 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and its annexes ([A/79/960](#)), the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to state the following:

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt rejects the outer limits of the Libyan continental shelf declared in the abovementioned note verbale of the Permanent Mission of Libya ([A/79/916](#)) and shown on the attached map. Egypt does not recognize those outer limits, because they overlap with the western maritime boundary of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Mediterranean Sea.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt reiterates its protest of the declared Libyan eastern maritime boundary, including the declared eastern outer limit of the Libyan continental shelf, which is located entirely within the maritime zone of the Arab Republic of Egypt. That constitutes a violation of the sovereignty of the Arab Republic of Egypt over its territorial sea and contiguous zone and disregards its inherent and established sovereign rights to its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea. Egypt reserves all its rights in this regard and emphasizes that it is determined to protect those rights, which are based on international law.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt stresses that the declared Libyan eastern maritime boundary, including the declared eastern outer limit of the Libyan continental shelf, are inconsistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea and contrary to the provisions of international law and relevant international practice. It rejects any measures, conduct or legal effects flowing therefrom.

Egypt reaffirms the contents of the Maritime Zone Notification it deposited on 12 January 2023 (M.Z.N.162.2023.LOS), including the Decree of the President of the Arab Republic of Egypt No. 595 (2022) concerning the delimitation of the Western Maritime Boundaries of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Mediterranean Sea and the list of geographical coordinates contained therein. It likewise reaffirms the contents of its previous correspondence, including the notes verbales dated 23 December 2019 ([A/74/628](#)), 10 April 2023 ([A/77/858](#)) and 9 April 2024 ([A/78/848](#)) from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General.

With reference to the note verbale dated 20 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/79/960](#)) regarding the Greek Government's announcement of international tendering to grant permits for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in maritime areas located south of the Peloponnese and the island of Crete. In that note verbale, Libya maintains that the declared "south Crete 2" area is located geographically within the Libyan maritime areas. Egypt rejects and refuses to recognize any claims by any party that fall within the exclusive economic zone and

continental shelf of the Arab Republic of Egypt and disregard its inherent and inalienable sovereign rights in its maritime areas extending from its baselines in the Mediterranean Sea. These are the maritime areas declared in accordance with relevant decisions and legislation, including the 15 January 1951 decree regarding the territorial waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt, decisions amending that decree, and Presidential Decree No. 595 (2022).

Egypt stresses that it rejects the memorandum of understanding concluded on 25 June 2025 between the Libyan National Oil Corporation and the Turkish Petroleum Corporation concerning a geological and geophysical study and seismic survey of four offshore areas in the Mediterranean Sea. The maritime “Area 4” referred to in that memorandum overlaps with the maritime boundary of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Egypt rejects any measures, conduct or legal effects that flow from that memorandum. It also rejects any action or activity within the maritime borders of Egypt based on the aforementioned memorandum of understanding.

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt reiterates its position stated in the note verbale dated 23 December 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/628](#)) that it does not recognize the memorandum of understanding signed on 27 November 2019 between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the Libyan Government of National Accord concerning the determination of maritime rights in the Mediterranean and rejects any measures, conduct or legal effects flowing therefrom. It likewise rejects the memorandum of understanding signed on 3 October 2022 between the Government of the Republic of Türkiye and the outgoing Libyan National Unity Government concerning cooperation on hydrocarbons, which it considers invalid and completely devoid of legal force.

The Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to reaffirm its openness and commitment to cooperate, consult and negotiate with neighbouring States in good faith to reach agreement on the delimitation of maritime boundaries on the basis of the principles of international law and fair and just solutions in a manner that achieves common interests.

The Permanent Mission of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the United Nations in New York would be grateful if the present note verbale could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75, and published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, as well as in the forthcoming edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.
