



General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 September 2025

Original: English

Seventy-ninth session

Agenda item 75

Oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 3 September 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Greece to the United Nations has the honour to communicate the following regarding the note verbale dated 27 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/79/916](#)).

A. First, Greece rejects the allegation of Libya that the “Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of National Accord-State of Libya and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Delimitation of the Maritime Jurisdiction Areas in the Mediterranean”, signed on 27 November 2019, “constitutes an equitable solution reached based on international law”. The two States have no common maritime boundaries because of the presence of numerous Greek islands, including Crete and the Dodecanese islands. The memorandum disregards the maritime entitlements of the Greek islands and thereby attempts to refashion geography in the eastern Mediterranean. The Permanent Mission kindly refers, on the issue of this memorandum, to the letter dated 9 December 2019 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, which is annexed to her letter dated 14 February 2020 ([A/74/706](#)), as well as to the letters of its Permanent Representatives dated 19 March 2020 ([A/74/758](#)), 20 April 2020 ([A/74/819](#)), 1 June 2020 ([A/74/872](#)), 29 September 2020 ([A/75/375-S/2020/958](#)), 17 November 2022 ([A/77/604](#)), 24 April 2023 ([A/77/865](#)) and 17 January 2024 ([A/78/718](#)), and to its notes verbales dated 2 September 2020 ([A/74/1006](#)) and 5 August 2025 ([A/79/983](#)).

B. The Mission also rejects Libya’s allegations against the Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zones between the two countries, signed in Cairo on 6 August 2020. This agreement has been concluded between States with opposite coasts and in full conformity with the relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, as already stressed in the note verbale dated 2 September 2020 ([A/74/1006](#)), as well as in the letter dated 29 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/75/375-S/2020/958](#)). Libya’s assertion that this agreement is “inconsistent with ... the principle of equity” while, at the same time, presenting as



“equitable” the Turkish-Libyan Memorandum of Understanding, is unsustainable and runs contrary to the Convention and the practice of maritime delimitation.

C. Libya’s allegations with regard to Greece’s recent announcement of an international call for tenders for granting and using authorizations for the exploration and exploitation of hydrocarbons in maritime areas to the south of Crete, as well as with regard to the already granted licences and relevant surveys in the maritime areas south-west and west of Crete, are devoid of any legal basis and disregard the fact that the above areas are exclusively within Greek jurisdiction. The Permanent Mission wishes to reiterate, in this respect, Greece’s position as set out in its note verbale dated 5 August 2025 (A/79/983).

D. Turning to the issue of maritime spatial planning, through Ministerial Decision No. 43090/574 of the Minister and the Deputy Minister of Environment and Energy of the Hellenic Republic, dated 17 April 2025,¹ Greece has designated four maritime spatial units in the maritime areas where it exercises sovereignty, sovereign rights or jurisdiction. This designation has been made for the purpose of establishing maritime spatial plans in fulfilment of Greece’s obligations under Directive 2014/89/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union dated 23 July 2014.

As is clear from the legend of the map annexed (in Greek and English) to the above-mentioned Ministerial Decision, the southern limits of maritime spatial units 3 and 4, as well as the south-western limit of maritime spatial unit 4, are those of the continental shelf/exclusive economic zone of the Hellenic Republic in the area, as determined in accordance with the Agreement between the Government of the Hellenic Republic and the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zones between the two countries signed in Cairo on 6 August 2020 and the Agreements between the Hellenic Republic and the Italian Republic on the delimitation of their respective continental shelves and on the delimitation of their respective maritime zones, signed in Athens on 24 May 1977 and on 9 June 2020, respectively. For the maritime area where there is as yet no delimitation agreement, the relevant limits are determined by the median line as described in article 2(1) of Law No. 2289/1995, as amended by article 156(1) of Law No. 4001/2011 (Government Gazette No. 179/A/22.8.2011). Greece has repeatedly informed the United Nations of this fact, as pointed out in the letter dated 29 September 2020 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/75/375-S/2020/958). In this respect, the Permanent Mission wishes to stress that, from the legend of the map annexed to the above-mentioned Ministerial Decision, it is clear that the median line defines the outer limits of the Greek continental shelf “until the conclusion of delimitation agreements with neighbouring States whose coasts are opposite or adjacent to Greece”.

In view of the above, the Permanent Mission stresses that its southern maritime spatial units, namely maritime spatial units 3 and 4, have been drawn up in full conformity with international law. Therefore, the Permanent Mission rejects Libya’s allegation that some areas in the southern portion of Greece’s Maritime Spatial Plan violate Libya’s maritime jurisdiction areas in the Mediterranean Sea.

E. On the recent proclamation by Greece of an exclusive economic zone in the area of the Ionian Sea, the Ionian islands and up to Cape Tainaro in the Peloponnese, through Presidential Decree No. 33/2025 (Government Gazette No. 59/A/17.04.2025), the Permanent Mission would like to underline that Libya’s allegation that this zone encroaches on its continental shelf is totally unfounded. In particular, with respect to

¹ See Government Gazette No. 229/D/17.04.2025, available at: <https://ia37rg02wpsa01.blob.core.windows.net/fek/04/2025/20250400229.pdf>.

Libya's position that the southern limit of this exclusive economic zone is not equidistant from the main coasts of Libya and Greece, the Permanent Mission would like to underline the following: this southern limit, extending between point 16 of the exclusive economic zone's south-western limit (which is identical to point 16 of the boundary line between the Hellenic Republic and the Italian Republic, as determined in the above-referenced Agreements between the Hellenic Republic and the Italian Republic on delimitation), and point 16-A at Cape Tainaro of the Peloponnese, lies within an area of exclusive Greek jurisdiction, away and further north from the equidistance line between the coasts of Libya and Greece in this maritime area.

Regarding in particular the reference, in Libya's note verbale, to the equidistance line between "the main coasts of Libya and Greece", the Permanent Mission stresses that Greece rejects the assertion that equidistance should be calculated "from the main coasts of Libya and Greece". Greece wishes to underline, that, in accordance with article 121 of the Convention, which reflects customary international law, all Greek islands enjoy maritime zones in the same way as any other land territory. Any equidistance line between Greece and Libya must therefore be drawn with reference to base points on the relevant Greek islands.

F. Turning to the "official position of Libya regarding the outer limits of its continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea", as well as the relevant coordinates and map, as contained in the enclosure to Libya's note verbale that purportedly define those limits, it should be stressed that all the above points apply and that Libya's claims are unsubstantiated and legally unfounded.

These outer limits have been measured from the straight baselines established by Libya in 2005, as well as from a closing line across the Gulf of Sirte, all of which are unlawful and not justifiable under the international law of the sea, for the reasons referred to in the letter dated 17 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/718](#)).

The purported outer limit of the continental shelf of Libya is, between the penultimate point of the border line between Libya and Egypt and point B, identical to the "eastern maritime border of Libya" described in Libya's note verbale dated 13 February 2023 ([A/77/742](#)). This "eastern maritime border" has been claimed by Libya also on the basis of the arbitrary "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of National Accord -State of Libya and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Delimitation of the Maritime Jurisdiction Areas in the Mediterranean", signed on 27 November 2019. In this respect, it should be recalled that Greece has objected to Libya's claims regarding its eastern maritime border, to the extent that they infringe upon its sovereign rights and are based on the 2019 Memorandum, through letters from its Permanent Representative to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, dated 24 April 2023 ([A/77/865](#)) and 17 January 2024 ([A/78/718](#)).

This purported outer limit is, between points B and A, identical to the invalid delimitation line in the "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of National Accord-State of Libya and the Government of the Republic of Turkey on Delimitation of the Maritime Jurisdiction Areas in the Mediterranean", signed on 27 November 2019.

Between point A and point 12, the purported outer limit of the continental shelf of Libya has been drawn up in full disregard of the Greek islands, and of their maritime entitlements, including within 12 nautical miles of the coast. In this respect, Greece rejects, once again, Libya's assertion that the median line has to be calculated "between the coasts of the two mainlands".

In light of the above, Greece rejects as unfounded and illegal, as far as its sovereign rights and jurisdiction are concerned, the “official position of Libya regarding the outer limits of its continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea”, as well as the relevant coordinates and map.

In addition, Greece has protested the Libyan fisheries protection zone proclaimed in 2005 and depicted on the above-mentioned map. Greece kindly refers, on the issue of this zone, to the letter dated 24 April 2023 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/77/865](#)). Greece also objects to the outer limits of Libya’s contiguous zone, proclaimed in 2023 and also depicted on the above-mentioned map. Greece kindly refers, on this issue, to the letter dated 17 January 2024 from the Permanent Representative of Greece to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/78/718](#)), while recalling also the relevant position of the States members of the European Union as expressed in the note verbale dated 29 November 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Hungary to the European Union, addressed to the Embassy of Libya in Brussels.

The Greek side expresses, once again and while reserving all its rights, its readiness to resume negotiations with the Libyan side on the delimitation of their respective maritime zones, on the basis of international law.

The Permanent Mission of Greece 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 and in the next edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.
