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Oceans and the law of the sea: oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 10 April 2023 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 presents its compliments to the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea of the Office of Legal Affairs of the Secretariat. We write in reference to the note verbale dated 13 February 2023 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and its annexes ([A/77/742](#)). The Arab Republic of Egypt would like to draw attention to the following:

- The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to register its firm rejection and protest of the entire contents of the above-mentioned note verbale and its annexes, and in particular the list of coordinates demarcating the eastern maritime border of the State of Libya in the Mediterranean Sea issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Government of National Unity (whose mandate is coming to a close). Those coordinates were issued in contravention of the principles and provisions of international law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, in a manner incompatible with the constitutional legitimacy of the Libyan State under the relevant Security Council resolutions (including resolutions [2570 \(2021\)](#) and [2571 \(2021\)](#)), and in disregard of the inherent and inalienable sovereign rights of Egypt. The Arab Republic of Egypt reserves all its rights in that connection.
- The Arab Republic of Egypt emphatically objects to and refuses to recognize any of the points and coordinates submitted by the Libyan side and refuses to treat them as a mutually agreed maritime border between Egypt and Libya. They are located entirely within the territorial waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt. Egypt stresses that any consequences resulting from the use of those points would be unacceptable and would constitute a violation of the sovereign rights of Egypt in its exclusive economic zone and continental shelf in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Egypt also reaffirms its deposit on 12 January 2023 of 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 (MZN 162.2023.LOS), as well as its previous correspondence, including 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).

- The Arab Republic of Egypt wishes to reaffirm its openness and commitment to cooperate, consult and negotiate with neighbouring States in good faith, when conditions are conducive, 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 would like to request that the present note verbale be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 72 (a), 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*.
