



*No: MI-SG -12212017*

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations presents its compliments to the office of the Secretary General of the United Nations and wishes to express its grave concern regarding the decision of the Government of Lebanon, dated 14 December 2017, to purport to grant, without Israel's consent, offshore licenses to a consortium of three companies, Total SA, ENI SpA and Novatek PJSC, in Israel Block 2 (also referred to as so-called "Lebanese Block 9") in maritime areas that are under Israeli sovereignty and jurisdiction.

These developments have taken place despite Israel's repeated and explicit objections to this tender process and in direct violation of Israel's sovereign rights. In its conduct, the Government of Lebanon has ignored Israel's official communication with respect to the delimitation of the northern limit of its territorial sea and exclusive economic zone, dated 12 July 2011. Furthermore, by continuing with the tender process in the so-called "Block 9", the Government of Lebanon has failed to heed Israel's formal objection submitted to the United Nations in its letter dated 2 February 2017 (Ref. No. MI-SG-02022017), which was duly published, and which stated in no uncertain terms Israel's objection to any unauthorized economic activity in any part of Israel's Exclusive Economic Zone. Indeed, even Israel's repeated calls for dialogue and cooperation towards an agreed resolution of this issue, including in the abovementioned letter, have been rejected by the Government of Lebanon, in blatant disregard of its fundamental legal duty to settle disputes peacefully.

The State of Israel reiterates that it will not allow any non-consensual, unauthorized, economic activity in its maritime areas. It regrets that its restraint and offers for a resolution have been ignored by the Government of Lebanon and is committed to pursuing available and relevant options to protect its sovereign rights.

In this regard, Israel reiterates its call on all third actors to respect its position regarding this issue, and refrain from participating in, promoting or facilitating, any action that would violate Israel's sovereign rights or otherwise involve them in non-consensual or unauthorized economic activities in this maritime area. It reminds these actors that such activity would expose them to significant liability.

The State of Israel renews its call to the Government of Lebanon to immediately and unequivocally cease the tender process with respect to the maritime areas under Israeli sovereignty and jurisdiction, to avoid any further escalation or deterioration of the situation, and to seek, in good faith, a mutually acceptable resolution of this matter.



The Permanent Mission of Israel would be grateful if the Note Verbal was circulated amongst States and published on the Ocean & Law of the Sea UN website under the countries section of the database on Maritime Space: Maritime Zones and Maritime Delimitation.

In addition, The Permanent Mission of Israel requests to include this information in the next Law of the Sea bulletin.

The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of the Secretary General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

New York, 21-December 2017

