



*No: MI-SG -02022017*

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 raise our Government's serious concerns regarding recent reports that the Government of Lebanon is contemplating advancing a tender to grant offshore licenses in maritime areas that belong to the State of Israel (in Blocks 1, 2, and 3 on the Israeli Licensing map dated December 2016<sup>1</sup>, attached hereto; referred to by Lebanon as the so-called "Blocks 8, 9, and 10").

In this context, we recall the List of Geographical Coordinates for the Delimitation of the Northern Limit of the Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone of the State of Israel dated 12 July 2011 that our Government submitted to the Office of the Secretary-General<sup>2</sup>, which sets forth in no uncertain terms the extent of Israel's maritime claims in its northern maritime areas.

The Government of Israel objects to non-consensual Lebanese economic activity in maritime areas belonging to Israel, and will not allow any unauthorized economic activity, including, *inter alia*, the granting of rights by another State to any third party; exploratory activities; drilling; or exploitation of natural resources in maritime areas in which Israel asserts sovereign rights or jurisdiction. The Government of Israel is committed to ensuring that its rights are protected and to preventing such unauthorized activities. In this context, the Government of Israel calls upon the Government of Lebanon to refrain from further advancing any such non-consensual activities in maritime areas belonging to Israel, and requests that all relevant actors not lend a hand to such unauthorized and prohibited action.

The Government of Israel wishes to take this opportunity to reiterate its openness to dialogue and cooperation with the relevant neighboring States regarding the northern limit of Israel's Territorial Sea and Exclusive Economic Zone, in accordance with the principles of international maritime law.

The Permanent Mission of Israel would be grateful if the Note Verbal and its annex could be 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<sup>3</sup>. In addition, The Permanent Mission of Israel requests to include this information in the next Law of the Sea bulletin.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://energy.gov.il/english/subjects/oilandgasexploration/documents/israel\\_map.pdf](http://energy.gov.il/english/subjects/oilandgasexploration/documents/israel_map.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/isr\\_eez\\_northernlimit2011.pdf](http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/PDFFILES/isr_eez_northernlimit2011.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.un.org/Depts/los/LEGISLATIONANDTREATIES/STATEFILES/ISR.htm>



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, 2 February 2017



