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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 Israel's serious concerns regarding the recent reports on the intent of the Government of Lebanon to promote, without Israel's consent, a tender to grant offshore licenses in Israeli Blocks 1 and 3 (also referred to, respectively, as parts of so-called "Lebanese Blocks 8 and 10"). The Government of Lebanon has repeatedly disregarded Israel's position and relevant legal principles and obligations, as specified below.

In 2011, the Government of Israel submitted to the Office of the Secretary-General 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, thus exercising Israel's sovereign rights in accordance with International Customary Law of the sea. The Government of Lebanon has ignored this communication, and promoted a tender to grant offshore licenses in maritime areas whereby Israel asserts sovereign rights (Israel Block 2, also referred to as part of so-called "Lebanese Block 9"). Lebanon proceeded with this tender process despite Israel's repeated and explicit objections to it, as expressed in both of Israel's communications to the Office of the Secretary-General, dated 2 February 2017 and 21 December 2017. Most recently, as mentioned above, Lebanon has once again ignored Israel's position, by reportedly promoting another tender in maritime areas that belong to Israel.

The State of Israel wishes to reiterate its objection to this clear and direct violation of Israel's sovereign rights in its maritime areas, and its principled objection to any non-consensual, unauthorized, economic activity in its maritime areas, which can only jeopardize and hamper the prospects of reaching a peaceful solution to this issue. In this context, the State of Israel expects all third actors to respect its position regarding this matter, and refrain from cooperating with any non-consensual or unauthorized economic activities that may violate Israel sovereign rights or hinder the peaceful resolution of this dispute. It reminds any such third actors that such cooperation would expose them to significant liability.

The State of Israel wishes to reiterate its readiness to cooperate in good faith with its relevant neighbors, in order to address this matter in a mutually acceptable and peaceful manner, while asserting at the same time that it will not allow non-consensual or unauthorized activities in its maritime areas.

The Permanent Mission of Israel would be grateful if this Note Verbal and the attached map were 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.





Ministry of Energy  
**State of Israel**  
**Petroleum Rights**  
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