



# General Assembly

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Agenda item 74 (a)

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

#### **Note verbale dated 2 September 2020 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 14 August 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/990](#)).

On 6 August 2020, Greece and Egypt signed an agreement on the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone between the two countries. This agreement was 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, to which both States are contracting parties. The agreement is the outcome of good-faith negotiations and cooperation between two neighbouring countries, which aim at settling maritime issues peacefully and on the basis of international law. The agreement, just as the one previously signed with Italy, is part of Greece's strategy to conclude delimitation agreements with all its neighbouring countries, in full respect of the international law of the sea.

In the aforementioned note verbale, Turkey reiterates its unsubstantiated and illegal claims in the region, which were rejected by Greece in the letters dated 19 February ([A/74/710-S/2020/129](#)), 19 March ([A/74/758](#)) and 20 April 2020 ([A/74/819](#)) addressed by its Permanent Representative to the Secretary-General. It has to be underlined once again that, as already stressed by the Greek Government, the memorandum of understanding between Turkey and Libya's Government of National Accord on maritime delimitation is null and void and has no legal effect on Greece's sovereign rights (see the letter dated 9 December 2019 annexed to the letter dated 14 February 2020 ([A/74/706](#))). It violates the rules of the law of the sea regarding maritime delimitations, as well as those regarding the rights of islands to generate maritime zones beyond their territorial sea.

Greece also rejects as legally unfounded the so-called "principles" erroneously and arbitrarily invoked by Turkey, on which the Turkish position on the delimitation of maritime jurisdiction areas is said to be based. The invocation of non-existent or non-applicable "principles" is aimed at distorting international jurisprudence as well as at refashioning the geography of the area. In this respect, Greece would like to recall the letter dated 20 April 2020 addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/819](#)).



Notwithstanding the above, Greece remains committed to its efforts to contribute to regional peace and stability, while, at the same time, safeguarding its sovereign rights. In this respect, Greece would like to recall the letter dated 11 August 2020 addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/74/988-S/2020/795](#)). Lastly, Greece stands ready to engage in a dialogue with Turkey, once the latter's behaviour, currently nourishing an environment of aggression and threats, gives way to a climate conducive to it.

The Permanent Mission of Greece would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 74 (a), 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*.

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