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Note verbale dated 18 August 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations, with reference to the notes verbales dated 27 May 2025 and 20 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General ([A/79/916](#) and [A/79/960](#), respectively), has the honour to state the following:

The so-called Memorandum of Understanding on the delimitation of the maritime jurisdiction areas in the Mediterranean Sea between the Government of the Republic of Turkey and the Government of National Accord-State of Libya, dated 27 November 2019, purporting to delimit the exclusive economic zone/continental shelf between their coasts, does not comply with international law, and in particular the rules of international law pertaining to the conclusion of treaties, as well as the international law of the sea, as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As such, the said Memorandum does not produce any legal consequences for third parties, nor does it affect any third State's rights to maritime zones, including its sovereign rights, under international law (see letters of the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Cyprus to the United Nations dated 20 January 2020, 24 April 2020 and 20 July 2020, addressed to the Secretary-General, [A/74/660](#), [A/74/824](#) and [A/74/962](#), respectively).

This Memorandum purports a maritime delimitation between two States that do not possess opposite or adjacent coasts, thereby fabricating a non-existent maritime boundary between the two, while deliberately ignoring the presence and maritime entitlements of other coastal States in the region, including Greek islands, such as Crete and the Dodecanese. It is underlined that article 121 (2) of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea – which reflects customary international law and is, as such, also opposable to States which are non-Parties to the Convention – explicitly provides for the entitlement of islands to a territorial sea, a contiguous zone, a continental shelf and an exclusive economic zone.

It is, furthermore, noted that the closing line across the Gulf of Sirte, and the relevant drawing of the straight baseline, does not comply with the relevant rules of customary international law, as reflected in the Convention, and, thus, does not produce any legal consequences.



The Republic of Cyprus underscores the importance of full respect for international law. In this regard, it recalls that maritime delimitation agreements must be concluded between States with opposite or adjacent coasts, in good faith and in accordance with the well-established principles of international law, as codified in the Convention and guided by international jurisprudence.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus notes Libya's stated readiness to engage in negotiations with all neighbouring States for the delimitation of maritime boundaries in accordance with international law.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus kindly requests that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75, and of the Security Council, and that it be published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and included in a forthcoming edition of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

18 August 2025
