

**Security Council**

Distr.: General  
23 November 2021

Original: English

---

**Identical letters dated 23 November 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council**

I am writing to you with reference to the letters of the Permanent Representative of Lebanon dated 18 September 2021 ([A/76/351-S/2021/812](#)) and 22 September 2021 ([A/76/344-S/2021/820](#)) concerning the maritime boundary negotiations between Israel and Lebanon.

Israel would like to submit for the record its rejection of the claims raised in those letters, both on factual and legal grounds. There is no doubt that the “Karish” reservoir is located in its entirety within Israel’s exclusive economic zone. Furthermore, in recent years, major steps have been taken with regard to the exploration and development of the reservoir, including drilling wells and implementing a subsea system, all without any objection.

Unfortunately, as Israel has conveyed in previous letters dated 2 February 2017, 21 December 2017 and 11 July 2019, it is the Government of Lebanon that has promoted tenders to grant offshore licences in maritime areas where Israel asserts its sovereign rights in accordance with international law (Israel Block 2). Lebanon proceeded with the tender process despite Israel’s repeated and explicit objections thereto, as expressed in the above-mentioned communications.

Israel is of the view that rather than submitting unsubstantiated and counterproductive claims in the form of letters to the United Nations, efforts should be focused on the measures necessary, with the assistance of the United States mediator, to renew and advance the negotiations between Israel and Lebanon for the delimitation of their maritime boundary with the aim of reaching an agreed resolution, in a manner that would provide stability and economic benefit for both States.

Israel reserves the right to raise any claim at a later stage should the negotiations fail to advance an agreed outcome, but remains committed to reaching an amicable resolution of the issue. We would hope that Lebanon would demonstrate that same level of commitment to reaching a negotiated settlement.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Gilad Erdan  
Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations

