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Identical letters dated 28 January 2022 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On the instructions of the Government of Lebanon, I should like to draw attention to the 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 ([S/2021/969](#)) and the identical letters dated 27 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([S/2021/1085](#)). In that connection, Lebanon affirms the following:

In the aforementioned letters, the author refers to letters dated 2 February 2017 and 21 December 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Israel regarding the previous licensing rounds that Lebanon had launched. Lebanon responded to the allegations contained in those letters in its communication 574/2017, dated 20 March 2017, and its communication 154/2018, dated 26 January 2018.

In response to allegations made by Israel concerning the recent licensing round that the Government of Lebanon launched for the purpose of granting offshore exploration licences, and the claim made by Israel that the allotments are located in Israeli maritime areas, Lebanon asserts that all the work referred to is being carried out within its exclusive and non-negotiable economic zone.

Lebanon draws attention to the legal arguments and established factual evidence it has presented at the indirect negotiations in Naqurah pursuant to which it is entitled to expand its economic activities southward.

In order to respect the negotiation track, which has not yet begun pending the conclusion of the indirect negotiations, one cannot assert that there is an established Israeli economic zone, contrary to the claim that Israel has made regarding the Karish field. That claim prompted Lebanon to formally object, in the identical letters dated 18 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council ([A/76/351-S/2021/812](#)), to any drilling in the disputed areas so as to avoid taking measures that could pose a threat to international peace and security.



Lebanon calls upon the Secretary-General to demand once again of Israel that it honour the demands that it made in the identical letters dated 27 December 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/2021/1085) and refrain from engaging in any activity in the disputed areas, including granting rights to a third party, carrying out exploratory activities, drilling or exploration of natural resources, and to focus efforts on advancing the indirect negotiations. It also calls upon on all relevant third parties to respect the legitimate position of Lebanon.

Lebanon continues to anticipate that the United States mediator's efforts will succeed, and it reaffirms that it is committed to a negotiated solution, under the aegis of the United Nations, to the issue of the maritime boundary. This means that negotiations must resume from the point at which they ceased, without any preconditions other than compliance with the applicable international laws. In that connection, it should be noted that Lebanon has not taken any further measures out of respect for mediation efforts.

If indirect negotiations fail to produce a negotiated settlement, Lebanon reserves its full right to submit any subsequent demands and review the limits of its exclusive economic zone, in accordance with article 3 of Decree No. 6433 of 1 October 2011.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 38 and of the Security Council. I should also be grateful if you would have the present letter and the above-mentioned letters of Lebanon published on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the forthcoming issue of the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

(Signed) Amal **Mudallali**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative
