

EGYPT

SUMMARY OF CLAIMS

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
TERRITORIAL SEA	Feb 1958	Decree of 1951 concerning Territorial Waters, as amended by Presidential Decree of Feb 1958	12nm	Extended the territorial sea from 6nm. (This was an excessive claim at the time. The U.S. protested this claim in 1951.) (See LIS No. 22 for original 1951 Decree, and U.S. analysis. Egypt was known as United Arab Republic at the time.)
	Aug 1983	Declaration upon Ratification of LOS Convention	12nm	Purports to require prior notification for innocent passage of warships. <i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1984 and 1985 and conducted operational assertions in FY 1993, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2018. Purports to require prior authorization for innocent passage of “foreign nuclear-powered ships and ships carrying nuclear or other inherently dangerous and noxious substances”. <i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1984 and 1985.
	Jan 1995	Declarations after Accession to Basel Convention (see below)		Purports to require prior permission for innocent passage of foreign ships carrying hazardous or other wastes. <i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i>
	Dec 2022	Decree No. 595 Concerning the Maritime Boundary in the Mediterranean Sea		Promulgated coordinates of the western maritime boundary (territorial sea and EEZ) in the Mediterranean Sea. Publicized by M.Z.N.162.2023.LOS of Jan 2023, which included a map . This is a unilateral claim. Libya objected to this unilateral limit in several note verbales and then established their own unilateral limit.
ARCHIPELAGIC, STRAIGHT BASELINES, & HISTORIC CLAIMS	Feb 1958	Decree of 1951 concerning Territorial Waters, as amended by Presidential Decree of Feb 1958		Described baselines; enabling legislation for straight baselines. (See LIS No. 22 for original 1951 Decree, and U.S. analysis.)
	Jan 1990	Presidential Decree No. 27 Concerning the Baselines		Promulgated coordinates for straight baselines. (See LIS No. 116 for U.S. analysis, maps, and U.S. Protest Note 851.) <i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i> The U.S. protested this claim in CY 1991 and conducted operational assertions in FY 1996, 1997, and 2018. The UN received communications from Sudan and Egypt regarding these coordinates.

TYPE	DATE	SOURCE	LIMITS	NOTES
CONTIGUOUS ZONE	Feb 1958	Decree of 1951 concerning Territorial Waters, as amended by Presidential Decree of Feb 1958	18nm	Established contiguous zone. Claimed security jurisdiction. (See LIS No. 22 for original 1951 Decree, and U.S. analysis.) <i>The U.S. did not recognize this security claim.</i>
	Aug 1983	Declaration upon Ratification of LOS Convention	24nm	Extended the outer limit from 18nm.
CONTINENTAL SHELF	Sep 1958	Presidential Decision No. 1051	1958 DEF	
EEZ	Aug 1983	Declaration upon Ratification of LOS Convention		Claimed an EEZ in the Mediterranean and Red Seas.
	Dec 2022	Decree No. 595 Concerning the Maritime Boundary in the Mediterranean Sea		Promulgated coordinates of the western maritime boundary (territorial sea and EEZ) in the Mediterranean Sea. Publicized by M.Z.N.162.2023.LOS of Jan 2023, which included a map . The UN received communications from Libya, Greece, and Egypt regarding these coordinates.
ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION	Jan 1995	Declarations after Accession to Basel Convention (see below)		Purports to require prior permission for innocent passage of foreign ships carrying hazardous or other wastes. <i>The U.S. does not recognize this claim.</i> Purports to require prior notification for "the movement of any hazardous wastes through areas under its national jurisdiction". Imposed a "complete ban" on the import and disposal of all hazardous or other wastes on its territory. Egypt acceded to Convention in Jan 1993. Several member countries objected to the declarations, both on the grounds that reservations to the Convention were explicitly prohibited by the Convention, and because the declarations were filed too late (two years after accession). In view of the objections, the Secretary-General determined he was not in a position to accept the Declarations for deposit.
MARITIME BOUNDARIES	Feb 2003	Agreement with Cyprus		Maritime boundary (EEZ) agreement with Cyprus signed; EIF Mar 2004. The UN received communications from Turkey, Cyprus, and Greece regarding this agreement. (See LOS Bulletin No. 54 , page 127, and LOS Bulletin No. 59 , page 34, for letters from Turkey; and LOS Bulletin No. 57 , pages 124 and 129, for letters from Cyprus and Greece.)

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MARITIME BOUNDARIES, Continued	Apr 2016	Agreement with Saudi Arabia		Maritime boundary agreement with Saudi Arabia signed; EIF Jul 2017. The UN received a communication from Sudan rejecting this agreement.
	Aug 2020	Agreement with Greece		Maritime boundary agreement with Greece (partial delimitation of the EEZ) signed; EIF Sep 2020. The UN received communications from Turkey and Greece regarding this agreement.
LOS CONVENTION	Dec 1982			Signed Convention.
	Aug 1983			Ratified Convention, with Declaration .
	Mar 1995			Signed Part XI Agreement.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Excerpts of Endnote 9 to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal follow. (Go to [Basel Convention](#), scroll to Egypt and click on Endnote 9 for complete text of declarations and objections.)

9. On 31 January 1995, the Government of Egypt informed the Secretary-General that its instrument of accession should have been accompanied by the following declarations:

First declaration: passage of ships carrying hazardous wastes through the Egyptian territorial sea:

The Arab Republic of Egypt, upon acceding to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which was done on 22 March 1989 and is referred to hereafter as "the Convention", and, in accordance with article 26 of the Convention, declares that:

In accordance with the provisions of the Convention and the rules of international law regarding the sovereign right of the State over its territorial sea and its obligation to protect and preserve the marine environment, since the passage of foreign ships carrying hazardous or other wastes entails many risks which constitute a fundamental threat to human health and the environment; and

In conformity with Egypt's position on the passage of ships carrying inherently dangerous or noxious substances through its territorial sea (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1983), the Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt declares that

1. Foreign ships carrying hazardous or other wastes will be required to obtain prior permission from the Egyptian authorities for passage through its territorial sea.

2. Prior notification must be given of the movement of any hazardous wastes through areas under its national jurisdiction, in accordance with article 2, paragraph 9, of the Convention.

Second declaration: imposition of a complete ban on the import of hazardous wastes:

The Arab Republic of Egypt, upon acceding to the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, which was signed on 22 March 1989 and is referred to below as "the Convention", and in accordance with article 26 of the Convention, declares that:

In accordance with its sovereign rights and with article 4, paragraph 1 (a), of the Convention, a complete ban is imposed on the import of all hazardous or other wastes and on their disposal on the territory of the Arab Republic of Egypt. This confirms Egypt's position that the transportation of such wastes constitutes a fundamental threat to the health of people, animals and plants and to the environment.

[The third declaration concerned the Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.]

In this connexion, the Secretary-General received the following objections on the dates indicated hereinafter:

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (9 October 1995):

"The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot accept the first declaration of Egypt (passage of ships carrying hazardous wastes through the Egyptian territorial sea) [...]. Not only was this declaration out of time, but like all other declarations to similar effect, it is unacceptable in substance. In this connection the United Kingdom Government recalls its own statement upon signature confirmed upon ratification:

[For the text of the statement, see under "Reservations and Declarations".]

Finland (13 October 1995):

... "In the view of the Government of Finland the declarations of Egypt raise certain legal questions. Article 26.1 of the Basel Convention prohibits any reservation or exception to the Convention. However, according to article 26.2 a State can, when acceding to the Convention, make declarations or statements with a view, inter alia, to the harmonization of its laws and regulations with the provisions of this

Convention ...!

Without taking any stand to the content of the declarations, which appear to be reservations in nature, the Government of Finland refers to article 26.2 of the Basel Convention and notes that the declarations of Egypt have been made too late. For this reason the Government of Finland objects to the declarations and considers them devoid of legal effect."

Italy (13 October 1995):

... The Italian Government objects to the deposit of the aforementioned declarations since, in its opinion, they should be considered as reservations to the Basel Convention and the possibility of making reservations is excluded under article 26, paragraph 1, of the Convention. In any event, article 26, paragraph 2, stipulates that a State may, within certain limits, formulate declarations only "when signing, ratifying, accepting, approving, ... confirming or acceding to this Convention". For these reasons, the deposit of the aforementioned declarations cannot be allowed, regardless of their content.

Netherlands (13 October 1995):

"While the second and the third declarations do not call for observations by the Kingdom, the first declaration establishing the requirement of prior permission for passage through the Egyptian territorial sea is not acceptable. The Kingdom of the Netherlands considers the first declaration to be a reservation to the (Basel) Convention. The Convention explicitly prohibits the making of reservations in article 26 par. 1. Moreover, this reservation has been made two years after the accession of Egypt to the (Basel) Convention, and therefore too late. Consequently the Kingdom of the Netherlands considers the declaration on the requirement of prior permission for passage through the territorial sea made by Egypt a reservation which is null and void."

Sweden (16 October 1995):

"The Government of Sweden cannot accept the declarations made by the Government of Egypt [...].

First, these declarations were made almost two years after the accession by Egypt contrary to the rule laid down in article 26, paragraph 2 of the Basel Convention.

Second, the content of the first of these declarations must be understood to constitute a reservation to the Convention, whereas the Basel Convention explicitly prohibits reservations (article 26, paragraph 1).

Thus, the Government of Sweden considers these declarations null and void." In view of the above and in keeping with the depositary practice followed in such cases, the Secretary-general has taken the view that he is not in a position to accept these declarations for deposit.