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Oceans and the law of the sea

Note verbale dated 26 May 2026 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the note verbale dated 27 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya addressed to the Secretary-General.

The Government of Italy hereby submits, in the annex to the present note verbale, a note verbale from the Embassy of Italy to the State of Libya addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, General Protocol Department, Department of European Affairs, dated 24 May 2026, for publication on the website of the Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea and in the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.

The Permanent Mission of Italy has the further honour to kindly request the circulation of the present note verbale and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 75.



Annex to the note verbale dated 26 May 2026 from the Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Arabic and English]

The Embassy of Italy in the State of Libya presents its compliments to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Libya, General Protocol Department, Department of European Affairs, and has the honour to refer to the Note Verbale dated 27 May 2025 from the Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and its annexes ([A/79/916](#)).

The Italian Government welcomes the fact that the Libyan authorities have correctly considered the meridians 13°50' and 15°10' in drawing the median line between Italy's mainland – including the isle of Sicily – and Libya's mainland. It wishes however to point out that the outer limit of the continental shelf claimed by Libya in the aforementioned Note Verbale encroaches on Italy's rights and interests according to the law of the sea, namely eastwards of the meridian 15°10' E and westwards of the meridian 13°50' E indicated in the map attached to aforesaid Note Verbale.

The above-mentioned meridians are indeed the “limits defined” by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the judgment of 3rd June 1985, Continental Shelf Libyan Arab Jamahiriya/Malta (paragraphs 22 and 79), in order to delimit the geographical area which “appertain” exclusively to the Parties and beyond which, both east and west of the meridians, claims from a third State (Italy) exist.

The Embassy of Italy in the State of Libya welcomes the Libyan invitation to engage in negotiations with neighbouring coastal states for the delimitation of their respective maritime zones and avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, General Protocol Department, Department of European Affairs of the State of Libya, the assurances of its highest consideration.
