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In reaffirming its resolution 1514 (XV), containing the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, the General Assembly has consistently reaffirmed “that the continuation of colonialism in any form or manifestation, ***including economic exploitation***, is incompatible with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to

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Colonial Countries and Peoples". Based on the foregoing, the Declaration as a whole upholds the rights of the Saharawi people not only to self-determination, but also to use their natural wealth and resources for their own economic development and in furtherance of their right to self-determination.

Excellency, I informed you on 26 January 2009 that, in accordance with Resolution III of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, the Frente POLISARIO had declared a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for Western Sahara, within which the Saharawi people have exclusive sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources of the seabed, subsoil and superjacent water column. Since then, I have written to you on many occasions to bring your urgent attention to illegal activities with respect to the living and non-living resources of Western Sahara's maritime zones by the Kingdom of Morocco and its partners.

In accordance with resolution III of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea and UNCLOS Part V, the Frente POLISARIO has the honor to deposit with you, as depositary of the Convention, the coordinates of the outer limits of Western Sahara's 12-nautical mile territorial sea and its 200-nautical mile EEZ. The deposit and publication of these coordinates, in accordance with UNCLOS Parts II and V, will serve to clarify the precise geographical extent of the territorial sea and EEZ, and thereby assist States Parties and signatories to the UNCLOS to fulfil their obligation to respect and protect the rights and interests of the people of Western Sahara in their offshore natural resources.

The attached map illustrates the geographic coordinates that make up the outer limits of Western Sahara's 200-nautical mile EEZ. The zone employs points on the Western Saharan coastline as its defining territorial sea baseline, together with closing lines drawn across the harbour entrance at Dakhla and harbour works in the north at El Aaiún.

In the north, the outer limit follows a short equidistant or median line northwest from the land boundary with Morocco at 27° 40' North latitude. As this line proceeds west into the Atlantic, it is influenced by Spain's Canary Islands, but with reduced effect given the islands have limited south-reaching coastal projection and lie at considerable distance from their governing sovereign power.

In the south, the outer limit of the EEZ begins at a point 12 nautical miles south of the Cape Blanc peninsula at the point of the maximum southward reach of its territorial sea. From there, the EEZ outer limit line extends west into the Atlantic Ocean, adjusted to the south of a median line to account for the large concave coastal feature that is the Bay of Arguin. I note, however, that the northern and southern limits of the EEZ as listed in the attachment are without prejudice to future negotiations and potential mutually agreed maritime delimitations with neighbouring States.

Excellency, as I have written to you previously, the Frente POLISARIO, on behalf of the Saharawi people, reserves the right to pursue legal action in respect of any unauthorized activities related to the living and non-living resources of the maritime zones of the Western Sahara, and to seek reparations in respect of the exploitation of the resources therein. The Saharawi people call upon all State Parties and signatories to the UNCLOS to respect and

protect the Saharawi people's rights and interests in those resources in accordance with UNCLOS and international law, and to cease and desist from any further illegal fishing or other exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Mohamed Abdelaziz  
Secretary-General of the Frente POLISARIO

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned to the right of the typed name.



## WESTERN SAHARA'S EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

The following geographical coordinates define Western Sahara's 12 nautical mile (NM) territorial sea and 200 NM Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).\*

Western Sahara's maritime zones begin at two places on the Saharan coast, one in the north at the land frontier with Morocco, the other in the south at the end of Cape Blanc, at the land frontier with Mauritania. Because of the location of such low water (low tide) points may change through coastal processes, the points given below for commencement of Western Sahara's territorial sea, where the land boundary at 27° 40' North latitude intersects the low water line at the seaward extension of such boundary and where the southern land boundary dividing the Cape Blanc peninsula intersects the low water line, the resulting geographical coordinates given at the commencement points of such boundaries, N1 and S1, respectively, are *approximate*.

The following coordinates are references to the World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS-84). They were checked by plotting Africa Equidistant Conic projection in ArcGIS software at scales of less than 1:25,000, cross-referenced to published nautical charts of the Saharan Atlantic region. The International Nautical Mile of 1,852 metres has been used.

### Territorial sea and EEZ southern limit

**Territorial sea:** Commencing at a point named S1, being at the low water line of the Cape Blanc peninsula directly south (180° azimuth relative to the North) of the land boundary dividing Mauritania and Western Sahara (a location approximately 170 metres south of the centre of the Present 'Monument of the Castaways'), extending on a line directly south for a distance of 12 NM to point S2:

S1: 20° 46' 27" N, 17° 03' 07" W

S2: 20° 34' 23" N, 17° 03' 07" W

(being the limit of the territorial sea in the south)

**EEZ:** Beginning at point S2 and proceeding west along a line with an azimuth of 265° relative to North seaward a distance of 200NM sequentially between the following points:

S2: 20° 34' 23" N, 17° 03' 07" W

S3: 20° 32' 30" N, 17° 34' 26" W

S4: 20° 31' 48" N, 17° 47' 07" W

S5: 20° 30' 24" N, 18° 08' 57" W

S6: 20° 28' 26" N, 18° 40' 25" W

S7: 20° 28' 43" N, 18° 36' 06" W

S8: 20° 26' 43" N, 19° 03' 04" W

S9: 20° 25' 13" N, 19° 27' 53" W

S10: 20° 23' 23" N, 19° 55' 41" W

S11: 20° 22' 13" N, 20° 17' 39" W

S12: 20° 20' 59" N, 20° 36' 14" W

(being the limit of the EEZ in the south)

### Territorial sea and EEZ northern limit

**Territorial sea:** Commencing at a point named N1, being the intersection of the northern land boundary at 27° 40' N and the low water line of the coast, and then proceeding along a line sequentially to point N3, a distance 12 NM northwest of the coast:

N1: 27° 40' 00" N, 13° 10' 05" W

N2: 27° 44' 19" N, 13° 16' 07" W

N3: 27° 47' 30" N, 13° 20' 39" W

(being the limit of the territorial sea in the north)

**EEZ:** Beginning at point N3 and proceeding initially in the same northwest direction as the territorial sea boundary, to a distance of 27.7 NM from the coast through point N4 to point N5 and then, at point N5 turning into the Atlantic Ocean in a generally south-west direction, sequentially between the following turning points:

N3: 27° 47' 30" N, 13° 39' 20" W

N4: 27° 52' 01" N, 13° 26' 55" W

N5: 27° 56' 44" N, 13° 33' 26" W

N6: 27° 56' 44" N, 13° 33' 26" W

N7: 27° 44' 49" N, 13° 47' 08" W

N8: 27° 29' 08" N, 14° 07' 34" W

N9: 27° 20' 00" N, 14° 20' 11" W

N10: 27° 18' 22" N, 14° 39' 19" W

N11: 27° 16' 43" N, 14° 58' 10" W

N12: 27° 12' 18" N, 15° 06' 22" W

N13: 27° 02' 41" N, 15° 29' 44" W

N14: 26° 52' 49" N, 15° 55' 54" W

N15: 26° 38' 25" N, 16° 33' 57" W

N16: 26° 24' 44" N, 17° 10' 11" W

N17: 26° 17' 59" N, 17° 48' 16" W

N18: 26° 11' 40" N, 18° 23' 57" W

N19: 25° 58' 45" N, 18° 36' 06" W

N20: 25° 45' 23" N, 18° 47' 03" W

N21: 25° 21' 16" N, 19° 02' 45" W

N22: 25° 06' 02" N, 19° 11' 16" W

N23: 24° 50' 13" N, 19° 18' 26" W

N24: 24° 34' 19" N, 19° 24' 04" W

(being the limit of the EEZ in the north)

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**SAHARAWI ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE  
(INDICATED IN GREEN)**

