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The Permanent Mission of Israel to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and formally objects to the unilateral declaration on its purported maritime boundary, submitted on September 23, 2019.

It is a well-established and basic principle of international law, and of the most relevant treaties, including the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, that maritime boundaries are to be determined on the basis of equitable principles.

The Palestinian entity does not satisfy the established criteria for statehood under general international law, and therefore lacks the legal entitlement to such maritime zones. The Palestinian declaration further manifests its intent to the terms of the Oslo Accords, which clearly define the scope, limits and duration of the relevant maritime area.

Without prejudice to the lack of any Palestinian legal entitlement to declare maritime zones, it should be noted that the alleged declaration submitted in this Palestinian case constitutes a unilateral act, far from widespread practice and implementation of customary international law, and thus does not create a binding obligation between the States.

In light of the above, Israel's unilateral declaration is legally invalid, and has no practical effect.

The State of Israel wishes to reiterate that it will not study any unilateral or unauthorized activities, or negotiations, by third actors in the maritime area, or at the time of the current negotiations, as a precondition for any further negotiations.

Permanent Mission of Israel  
to the United Nations



The Permanent Mission of Israel  
amongst its activities and publishes  
section of the Yearbook of Maritime Law.  
In addition, the Permanent Mission  
of the Sea Bulletin.

The Permanent Mission of Israel  
to the United Nations

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