

COMMITTEE: ECOFIN

QUESTION OF: Exploring Exclusive Economic Zone Reform

SUBMITTED BY: The United Kingdom, Republic of India

CO-SUBMITTED BY: Federation of Malaysia, Republic of Turkey, Republic of Hungary, Republic of Malta, Republic of France, Federal Republic of Germany

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the importance of Exclusive Economic Zones in fostering maritime cooperation, resource sustainability, and economic growth,

Emphasizing the need for equitable reforms to prevent abuse and ensure sovereignty over a nation's waters, particularly in light of emerging challenges posed by certain nations,

Acknowledging the vulnerabilities of marine ecosystems and the urgency to address environmental concerns within EEZs,

Reaffirming the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

1. Establishes an international assistance framework providing financial, technological, and capacity-building support, to countries with limited capacities in Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) management. Simultaneously, establishing a database to record a nation's EEZ environmental activities and promoting sustainable and responsible utilization of marine resources through ecosystem-based management and precautionary approach,
 - a. Overseen by the Secretary-General, to enhance national capacities for EEZ management. Simultaneously, establishing the Aquatic Census of Environment Database (ACED), collaborating with the ISA for a cumulative nation-specific EEZ environmental practices database, and requiring annual reports from nations;
2. Reminding UN member states that have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Law of The Sea (UNCLOS) to abide by its regulations, specifically about Article 57, stating that the EEZ of a state shall not extend 200 nautical miles beyond their coast;
3. Deeply concerned about the rise of international tensions due to overlapping EEZ boundaries, declares the formation of the Boundary Assessment Agency (BAA) to reassess any EEZ boundary disputes to diffuse international tensions, showing the willingness of the co-submitting countries to engage in diplomatic dialogue and cooperation with other states to address any disputes related to EEZ boundaries, per UNCLOS and international law,

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- a. Demands nations to formally complain to the BAA for reassessment of EEZ boundaries, with the BAA tasked to average overlapping distances and issue new boundaries. Further, mandates nations to respect these boundaries or face penalties determined by ECOFIN;
4. Taking into account the crimes committed in EEZs designates the International Maritime Organization (IMO) additional powers to oversee and regulate activities in EEZs and territorial waters, with a focus on preventing piracy, safeguarding territorial integrity, combating illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and promoting sustainable resource management,
 - a. Emphasizes the importance of respecting the sovereignty of nations in the implementation of the IMO's expanded mandate and underlines that activities undertaken by the IMO shall fully respect the territorial integrity of member states,
 - b. Calls upon all UN member states to cooperate fully with the IMO in implementing and enforcing regulations aimed at enhancing maritime security, safeguarding territorial integrity, and ensuring sustainable resource management;
5. Noting with deep concern the lack of clear language in UNCLOS establishes a panel of legislative experts from nations who wish to contribute to aid in the amending of UNCLOS legislation to regulate activities within a nation's EEZ,
 - a. The panel would be tasked with contributing to the writing of legislation that explicitly prohibits certain activities including but not limited to illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing activities within their EEZs within any EEZ;
6. Deeply disturbed by the climate crisis by overfishing, strongly condemns any unreported commercial fishing, mandating that all commercial fishing is done with at least government knowledge, allowing any state to control the level of fishing done within their waters.