

# Exploring the need for Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) reforms

## Background

An Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is a concept in international law that was established by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The concept of EEZ was introduced to address issues related to maritime boundaries, resource management, and jurisdiction over natural resources in the world's oceans.

The history of EEZ can be traced back to the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place from 1973 to 1982. The conference aimed to establish a comprehensive legal framework for the use and governance of the world's oceans. UNCLOS III resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea in 1982, often referred to as UNCLOS or the Law of the Sea Convention.

The EEZ extends up to 200 nautical miles (370 kilometers) from the baseline of a coastal state, with some exceptions and modifications based on specific geographic circumstances.

Within its EEZ, a coastal state has the exclusive right to exploit and manage all living and non-living resources. This includes fishing, drilling for oil and gas, and other activities related to the exploration and exploitation of natural resources.

The concept of the EEZ is widely recognized and accepted in international law. Coastal states have the responsibility to manage and conserve the resources within their EEZ, but they are also obligated to cooperate with other states to ensure the sustainable use of the oceans.

The establishment of the EEZ was a significant development in international maritime law, providing a framework to balance the rights and interests of coastal states with those of the international community. It aimed to promote peaceful cooperation, prevent conflicts over maritime resources, and facilitate the sustainable use of the oceans. UNCLOS has been ratified by a large number of countries, making it a crucial international legal instrument governing maritime affairs.

## UN involvement

The United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) has been widely recognized and ratified by a large number of countries. As of January 2022, 168 parties, including the European Union, have ratified the convention. This widespread acceptance reflects the global consensus on the principles governing the use of the oceans and the

establishment of EEZs.

UNCLOS establishes the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) as one of its dispute settlement mechanisms. ITLOS has the authority to hear cases related to the interpretation and application of UNCLOS, including disputes concerning EEZs. States parties to UNCLOS can bring cases before ITLOS to resolve conflicts arising from issues such as maritime boundaries or resource exploitation within EEZs.

The UN continues to be involved in discussions related to maritime issues, including the sustainable use of marine resources, conservation of biodiversity, and addressing emerging challenges such as climate change and the protection of the marine environment. UNCLOS remains a key instrument in guiding these discussions and fostering international cooperation.

## Questions to consider

1. Is there a need to reassess the principles of equitable access to resources within EEZs to ensure fairness among coastal states and the international community?
  2. How can reforms address issues related to the fair distribution of benefits derived from the exploitation of resources within EEZs?
  3. How effective are the existing measures for enforcing EEZ regulations, preventing illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing, and addressing maritime security concerns?
  4. Are there adaptive measures that can be integrated into EEZ regulations to address the implications of climate change?
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3. How was the state of mental health in my country before and after the pandemic? In what aspects has it changed?
  4. Is my country involved with WHO's, or other organization's support programs (such as Comprehensive Mental Health Action Plan)?

## Sources

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