

Extract from the Brazilian Constitution on the Organization of the State  
(Adopted on 5 October 1988)

CHAPTER II  
ON THE UNION

Article 20

The public domain of the Union shall consist of:

- i. Such property as belongs to the Union at present or may in future be attributed to it;
- ii. Unoccupied lands essential for the defence of the frontiers, military fortifications and works, and federal communication links, and for the preservation of the environment, as provided for by law;
- iii. Lakes, rivers and any waterways which are situated within its domain, or which wash up on more than one State, constitute the frontier with other States, or flow into or originate in foreign territory, as well as riversides and river beaches;
- iv. Islands in rivers and lakes in areas bordering on other countries; ocean beaches; oceanic and continental islands, with the exception of the areas referred to in article 26, II;
- v. The natural resources of the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone;
- vi. The territorial sea;
- vii. Coastlands and coastal accumulations;
- viii. Potential sources of hydroelectric power;
- ix. Mineral resources, including the resources of the subsoil;
- x. Subterranean natural caves and archaeological and prehistoric sites;
- xi. Land traditionally occupied by the Indians.(1)

1. Under the conditions prescribed by law, the States, the Federal District, the Municipalities and the Union's organs of direct administration shall receive a share of the proceeds from the exploitation of oil or natural gas, of water resources for the purpose of generating electric power and of other mineral resources in the respective territories, continental shelf, territorial sea or exclusive economic zone, or financial compensation for such exploitation.

2. A 150-km-wide zone along the land frontiers, called the frontier zone, is considered essential for the defence of the national territory and its occupation and use shall be regulated by law.

## Endnotes

### 1 (Note - Note)

Original document contains roman large numerals (I-XI).