

**Decree concerning the Territorial Waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt  
of 15 January 1951, as amended by Presidential Decree  
of 17 February 1958**

**Article 1**

For the purposes of this Decree:

- (a) "Nautical mile" means one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two (1852) metres;
- (b) "Bay" means any cove, creek, inlet or arm of the sea;
- (c) "Island" means any isle, reef, rock, bar or a permanent man-made structure not submerged by water at low tide;
- (d) "Shoal/low-tide elevation" means any area of land submerged by shallow water, part of which remains unsubmerged at low tide;
- (e) "Coast" means the coasts of the Mediterranean, the Red Sea, the Gulf of Suez and the Gulf of Aqaba.

**Article 2**

With due regard to the provisions of international law concerning peaceful passage in the coastal sea of the vessels of other States, the territorial waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the airspace above them and the seabed and subsoil thereof shall be subject to the sovereignty of the State.

**Article 3**

The territorial waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt shall include the inland waters (internal waters) of the Republic and its coastal sea (territorial sea).

**Article 4**

The Republic's inland waters shall include:

- (a) Waters of the bays existing along the coasts of the Arab Republic of Egypt;
- (b) Waters above any low-tide elevations located within 12 nautical miles from the mainland or any Egyptian island as well as the waters between these low-tide elevations and the mainland;
- (c) Waters between the mainland and any Egyptian island at a distance not exceeding 12 nautical miles from the mainland;
- (d) Waters between Egyptian islands at a distance between each other not exceeding 12 nautical miles.

#### Article 5

The territorial sea of the Republic extends beyond the internal waters of the Republic to a distance of 12 nautical miles seaward.

#### Article 6

The baselines from which the territorial sea of the Republic is measured shall be as follows:

- (a) Where the coast or the island shore is entirely open to the sea: lines drawn from the low-water mark along the coast;
- (b) In the case of a bay facing the sea: lines drawn from one end of the land at the entrance of the bay to the other;
- (c) Where there is a low-tide elevation at a distance not exceeding 12 nautical miles from the coast or an Egyptian island: lines drawn from the coast or the island along the outer edge of the low-tide elevation;
- (d) In the case of a port or harbour facing the sea: lines drawn along the seaward side of the outermost part installations or roadsteads and lines also drawn between the tips of these installations;
- (e) Where there is an island at a distance not exceeding 12 nautical miles from the coast: lines drawn from the coast on the external shores of the island;
- (f) Where there is a series of islands that can be connected with each other by lines, each of which does not exceed 12 nautical miles in length, and whose nearest island is at a distance not exceeding 12 nautical miles from the coast: lines drawn from the coast along the shore fringes of all islands of the series should these islands assume a range configuration; otherwise the lines will be drawn along the outermost shores of the series;
- (g) Where there is a series of islands that can be connected with each other by lines not exceeding 12 nautical miles each, and whose nearest island is situated at a distance exceeding 12 nautical miles from the coast: lines drawn along the shore fringes of all islands of the series should these islands assume a range configuration; otherwise the lines are drawn along the shore fringes of the furthest seaward islands of the series.

#### Article 7

Where, in measuring the breadth of territorial waters pursuant to the provisions of the present Decree, a space is left which is regarded as part of the high seas, and is surrounded on all sides by the territorial waters, and which may not be extended in any direction to 12 nautical miles, such space shall constitute part of the territorial sea. The same rule shall apply to any clearly distinct pocket of the high sea that can be encompassed by drawing one straight line not exceeding in length 12 nautical miles.

#### Article 8

In the event that the waters of another State intermingle with the internal waters of the Arab Republic of Egypt or with the territorial sea, the boundaries shall be established in agreement with the State concerned and in accordance with the relevant rules of international law or any understanding reached between the two States.

#### Article 9

For the purposes of enforcing security, navigation and other financial and health laws and regulations, the

marine jurisdiction shall cover a zone beyond and contiguous to the territorial sea, extending six nautical miles to be added to the 12 miles established from the territorial sea baselines. This rule shall not be applicable to the fishing rights of the Arab Republic of Egypt.

**Article 10**

The present decision shall be published in the Official Gazette and shall be effective as from the date of its publication.

Issued at the palace of the Presidency on 28 Rajab, 1377 Hijri (17 February 1958).