

**Statement on the Territorial Sea, the Contiguous Zone, the Exclusive  
Economic Zone and the Continental Shelf of 12 May 1977**

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3. The exclusive economic zone of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam is adjacent to the Vietnamese territorial sea and forms with it a 200-nautical-mile zone from the baseline used to measure the breadth of Viet Nam's territorial sea.

The socialist Republic of Viet Nam has sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing all natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters, the seabed and subsoil of the exclusive economic zone of Viet Nam; it has exclusive rights and jurisdiction with regard to the establishment and use of installations and structures, artificial islands; exclusive jurisdiction with regard to other activities for the economic exploration and exploitation of the exclusive economic zone; exclusive jurisdiction with regard to scientific research in the exclusive economic zone of Viet Nam; the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam has jurisdiction with regard to the preservation of the marine environment, and activities for pollution control and abatement in the exclusive economic zone of Viet Nam.

4. The continental shelf of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam comprises the seabed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond the Vietnamese territorial sea throughout the natural prolongation of the Vietnamese land territory to the outer edge of the continental margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baseline used to measure the breadth of the Vietnamese territorial sea where the outer edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

The Socialist Republic of Vietnam exercises sovereign rights over the Vietnamese continental shelf in the exploration, exploitation, preservation and management of all natural resources, consisting of mineral and other non-living resources, together with living organisms belonging to sedentary species thereon.

5. The islands and archipelagos, forming an integral part of the Vietnamese territory and beyond the Vietnamese territorial sea mentioned in Paragraph 1, have their own territorial seas, contiguous zones, exclusive economic zones and continental shelves, determined in accordance with the provisions of Paragraphs 1, 2, 3, and 4 of this statement.

6. Proceeding from the principles of this statement, specific questions relating to the territorial sea, the contiguous zone, the exclusive economic zone, and the continental shelf of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will be dealt with in detail in further regulations, in accordance with the principle of defending the sovereignty and interests of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and in keeping with international law and practices.

7. The Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam will settle with the countries concerned, through negotiation on the basis of mutual respect for independence and sovereignty, in accordance with international law and practices, the matters relating to the maritime zones and the continental shelf of each country.