

**Ordinance 88-120 of 31 August 1988 establishing the limits and the
legal régime of the territorial sea, the contiguous zone,
the exclusive economic zone and the continental shelf
of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania**

[Original: French]

THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION HAS DELIBERATED AND ADOPTS,

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL SALVATION, HEAD OF
STATE, PROMULGATES THE ORDINANCE WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

The territorial sea of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania extends to a breadth of 12 nautical miles measured from the following baselines:

- (a) A straight baseline drawn between Cap Blanc and Cap Timiris; and
- (b) The low-water line everywhere else.

The waters located on the landward side of the baseline form part of the internal waters of the State.

Article 2

A zone shall be established contiguous to the territorial sea, having a breadth of 24 nautical miles measured from the baselines specified in article 1 of this Ordinance.

Article 3

An exclusive economic zone shall be established, having a breadth of 200 nautical miles measured from the baselines specified in article 1 of this Ordinance.

Article 4

The continental shelf of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall comprise the sea-bed and subsoil of the submarine areas that extend beyond its territorial sea throughout the prolongation of its land territory to the outer edge of the territorial margin, or to a distance of 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which the breadth of the territorial sea is measured where the edge of the continental margin does not extend up to that distance.

Article 5

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall exercise its sovereignty beyond its territory and internal waters, over the full breadth of its territorial sea, including the sea-bed and subsoil thereof, without prejudice to the right of innocent passage enjoyed by all foreign ships in accordance with international law.

Article 6

In the contiguous zone, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania may exercise the control necessary to:

- (a) Prevent infringement of its customs, fiscal, sanitary or immigration laws and regulations within its territory or territorial sea;
- (b) Punish infringement of the above laws and regulations committed within its territory or territorial sea.

Article 7

In the exclusive economic zone, the Islamic Republic of Mauritania reserves its sovereign and exclusive rights for the purpose of exploring, exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the sea-bed and of the sea-bed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploration and exploitation of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds, and, in general, with regard to other rights and obligations recognized under international law.

Article 8

The Islamic Republic of Mauritania shall exercise sovereign and exclusive rights over the full breadth of the continental shelf for the purpose of exploring it and exploiting its natural resources.

Article 9

All earlier provisions contrary to this Ordinance, and in particular articles 179 to 191 of Act No. 78.043 of 28 February 1978, setting out the Merchant Marine and Maritime Fishery Code, shall be abrogated.

Article 10

This Ordinance shall be published with all due urgency and shall be carried out as a State law.

Nouakchott, 31 August 1988.