

Law No. 1/98 on delimitation of the territorial sea and the exclusive economic zone(1)

Whereas the need to safeguard the legitimate rights and essential interests of the Nation with regard to living and non-living resources in the maritime domain in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe,

Whereas fisheries and the exploitation of natural living and non-living resources that exist in the maritime bed and subsoil thereof, as well as in the adjacent waters contiguous to the territorial sea of Sao Tome and Principe have a paramount importance to the national economy;

Taking into account the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea,

Whereas it is necessary to set up the boundary delimitation of its exclusive economic zone, where the State of Sao Tome and Principe will enjoy the sovereign rights in and exclusive jurisdiction over all the natural living and non-living resources therein,

Now therefore,

The National Assembly, under subparagraph (b) of article 86 of the Constitution, enacts as follows:

Article 1
Territorial sea

The territorial sea in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe has a breadth of twelve nautical miles, measured from the baseline, whose outer limit is a line every point of which is at a distance that is equal to twelve nautical miles from to the nearest point of the baseline.

Article 2
Archipelagic baseline

1. The baseline from which the breadth of the territorial sea in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe is measured, is straight lines joining successively the outermost points in the two main islands, islets and emerged reefs that lie around thereof and that are determined by the following geographical coordinates:

Points	Vertices	Latitude
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0.271361	E							
2	1	05	50.3	0.097306	S	6	40	38.3
0.677306	E							
3	0	47	15.8	0.787722	S	6	11	30.7
0.191861	E							
4	0	29	09.4	0.485944	S	5	43	56.3
0.732306	E							
5	0	05	33.8	0.092722	S	5	06	05.2
0.101444	E							
6	0	41	45.3	0.695917	N	3	37	03.2
0.617556	E							
7	0	54	37.0	0.910278	N	3	12	11.9
0.203306	E							
8	1	11	35.5	0.193194	N	3	16	22.4
0.272889	E							
9	1	24	44.0	0.412222	N	3	20	44.8
0.345778	E							
10	1	36	45.5	0.612639	N	3	25	37.9
0.427194	E							
11	1	56	23.1	0.939750	N	3	35	09.0
0.585833	E							
12	2	05	56.3	0.098972	N	4	25	32.8
0.585833	E							
13	2	16	08.6	0.269056	N	5	05	47.1
0.096417	E							
14	2	25	11.6	0.419889	N	5	32	02.5
0.534028	E							
15	2	33	24.7	0.556861	N	5	51	26.2
0.857278	E							
16	2	49	33.4	0.825944	N	6	24	15.7
0.404361	E							
17	2	56	41.5	0.944861	N	6	43	07.2
0.718667	E							
18	3	01	31.2	0.025333	N	7	01	26.7
0.024083	E							
19	3	02	33.5	0.042639	N	7	07	38.9
0.127472	E							
20	2	52	34.3	0.876194	N	7	22	35.9
0.376639	E							
21	2	38	50.7	0.647417	N	7	42	20.8
0.705778	E							
22	2	31	35.3	0.526472	N	7	53	20.4
0.889000	E							
23	2	22	58.9	0.383028	N	8	06	56.8
0.115778	E							
24	2	18	06.9	0.301917	N	8	14	23.9
0.239972	E							

25	2	11	30.9	0.191917	N	8	23	44.5
0.395694		E						
	2	04	20.2	0.072278	N	8	32	45.0
0.545833								

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Latitude: 1° 31'03"N

Longitude: 7° 25'05"E.

5. Points 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19 set up the equidistance line between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Nigeria.
6. Point 19 (triple point) is the equidistance point from the baseline in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the corresponding ones in the Republic of Nigeria and in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
7. Points 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 26 set up the median line between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
8. Point 26 (triple point) is the equidistance point from the baseline in the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the corresponding ones in the Republic of Equatorial Guinea and in the Republic of Gabon.
9. Points 26, 27, 28 and 29 set up the median line between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Equatorial Guinea.
10. Points 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 1 set up the median line between the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe and the Republic of Gabon.

Article 6

Rights of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe in the exclusive economic zone

The Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe exercises the rights set up in and deriving from international Conventions and laws, including but not limited to:

- (a) the sovereign right for the purpose of exploration, exploitation, conservation and management of the natural living and non-living resources in the seabed, the subsoil and superjacent waters thereof included;
- (b) the exclusive rights and jurisdiction with regard to the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures;
- (c) the exclusive jurisdiction over other activities related to economic exploration and exploitation of the zone, including the use of maritime currents and any other maritime feature whatsoever that may bring about technical and scientific development;
- (d) jurisdiction with regard to the preservation of the marine environment, especially, the control and elimination of pollution;
- (e) scientific research.

Article 7

Rights of other States

1. All remaining States may enjoy the freedoms of navigation, overflight and installation of submarine cables, tubes, as well as the other internationally legitimate use of the sea related to navigation and communication.
2. The installation of submarine cables and tubes shall be undertaken under arrangement with the State of the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Endnotes

1 (Note - Note)

Entry into force: 31 March 1998.