

# Singapore Government **PRESS RELEASE**

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## EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE

The Resumed Ninth Session of the Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea has just ended at Geneva. From the results of the Session, it would appear that the Conference is now drawing to a close and a new Convention on the Law of the Sea is likely to be concluded soon.

One of the trends emerging from the Conference is the endorsement of a 12-nautical mile limit for the territorial sea, with assurances of unimpeded transit passage through straits, and for a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone beyond the territorial sea where coastal States will have jurisdiction and rights over resources. The practice of States in recent years has also been consistent with this trend. Among others, Malaysia and Indonesia have already declared a 12-nautical mile territorial sea and a 200-nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

Since 1878, Singapore has adhered to the concept of a three-nautical mile territorial sea. In certain areas, Singapore can extend its territorial sea beyond three nautical miles and can also claim an Exclusive Economic Zone. In the light of the said international developments, Singapore will exercise its rights to extend its territorial sea limit up to a maximum of 12 nautical miles. Likewise, Singapore will also establish an Exclusive Economic Zone.

The precise coordinates of any extensions of the territorial sea and the establishment of any Exclusive Economic Zone will be announced at an appropriate time. Should such extensions and the establishment of an Exclusive Economic Zone overlap with claims of neighbouring countries, Singapore will negotiate with these countries with a view to arriving at an agreed delimitation in accordance with international law.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

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