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Thank you.





## **Negotiating Maritime Boundaries**







#### **Opening discussion**

- What is your background / involvement with maritime boundaries?
- Why do you feel maritime boundaries are important?
- What are the main obstacles to the delimitation of your country's maritime boundaries?
- What are you hoping to get out of this workshop?

#### The paradox of ocean law and governance

• Oceans are crucial for modern world: politically, economically, environmentally, culturally

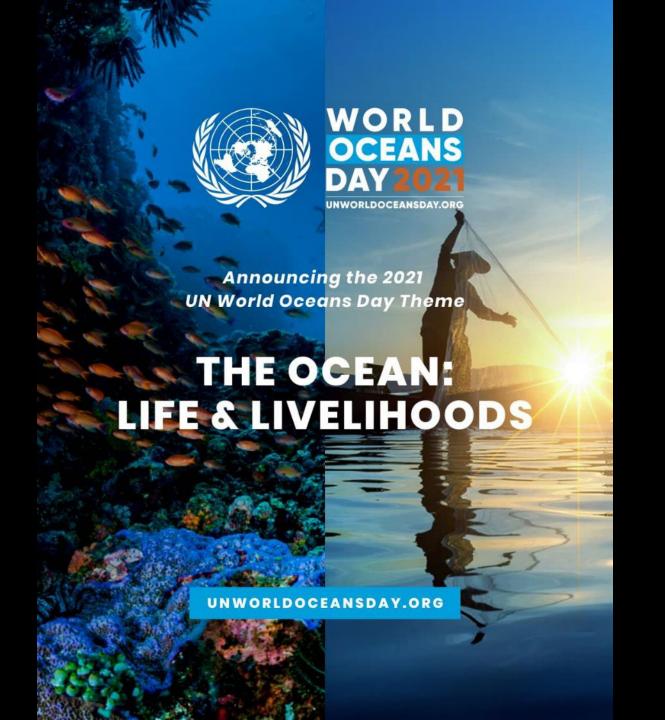














## THE BLUE ECONOMY.



uses smart shipping to lessen the impacts on the environment



is inclusive and improves the lives of all



harnesses renewable energy



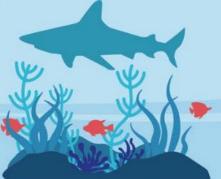
is based on sustainable fisheries



takes action against illegal fishing



creates jobs, reduces poverty and ends hunger



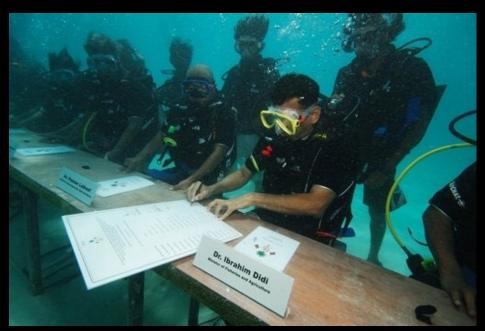
protects coastal communities from the impacts of climate change



tackles marine litter and oceans pollution

marine life and oceans

conserves





Maldives

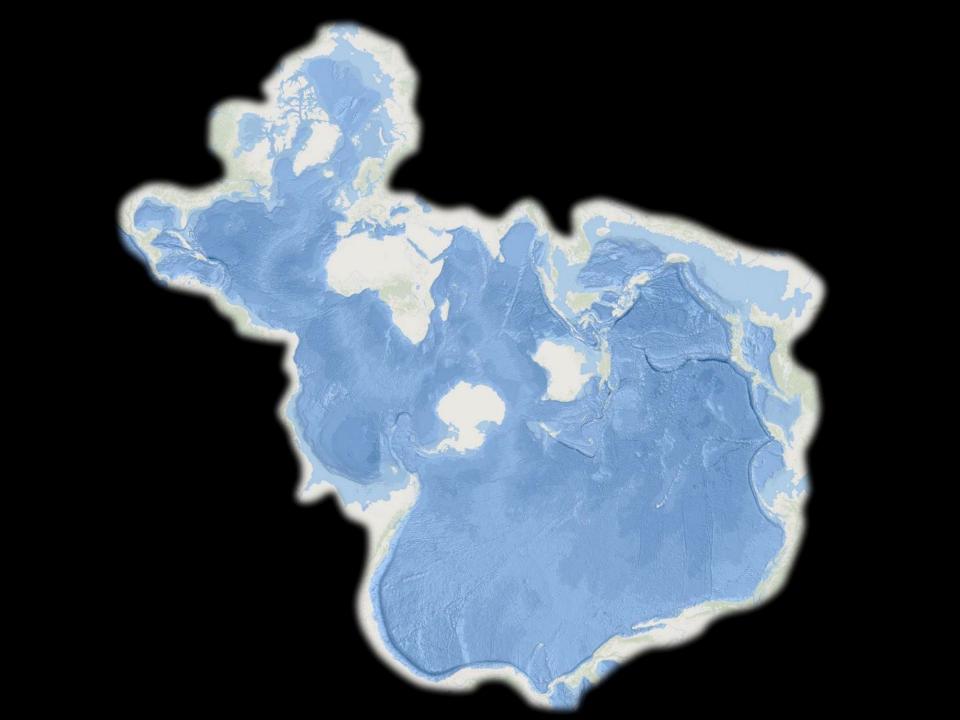
Tuvalu

#### The paradox of ocean law and governance

• Oceans are crucial for modern world: politically, economically, environmentally, culturally

#### The paradox of ocean law and governance

- Oceans are crucial for modern world: politically, economically, environmentally, culturally
- Oceans are difficult spaces in which to apply the rule of law

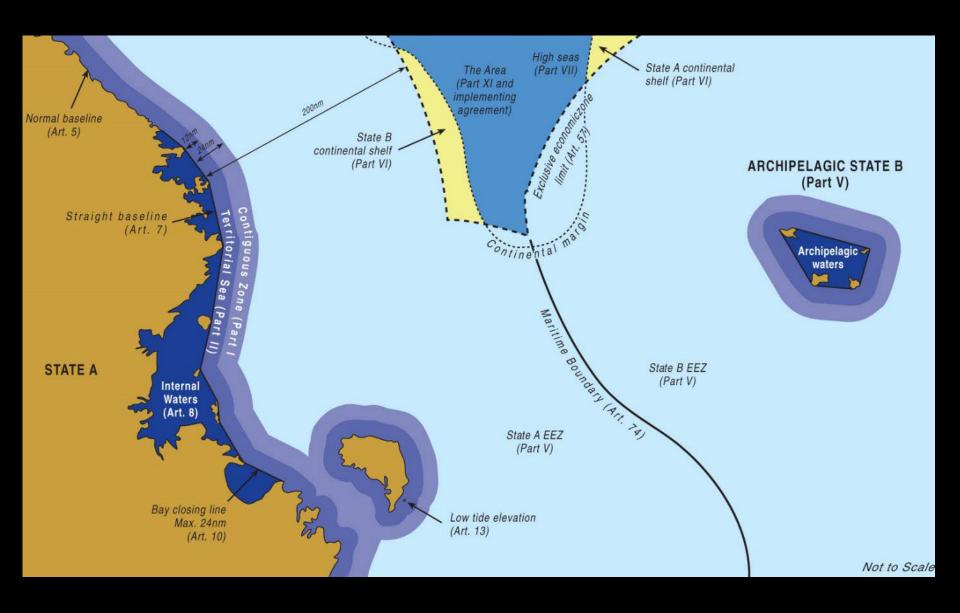


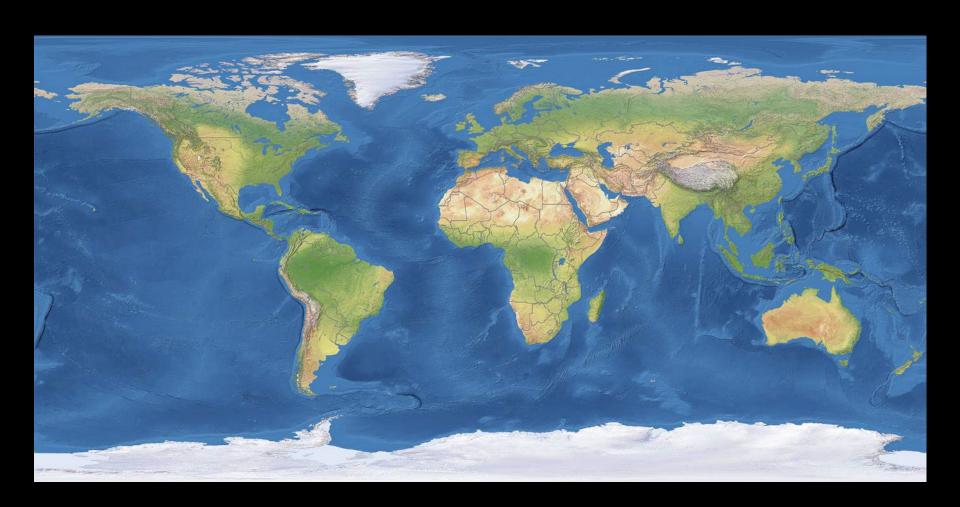


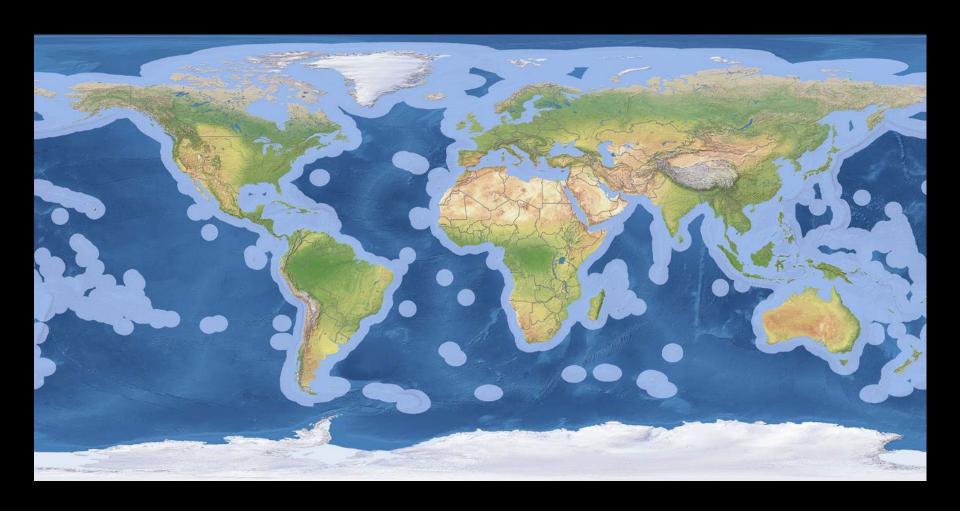
#### The law of the sea: historical context

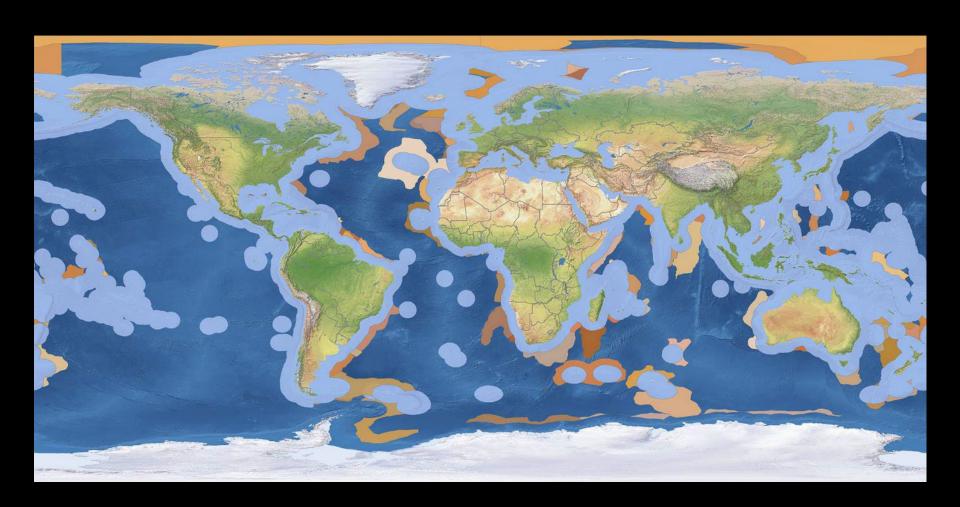
- 15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries: extensive maritime claims, e.g. 1493 division of world's oceans between Portugal and Spain
- 1607: Grotius' Mare Liberum
- 19th century: European imperial powers promote freedom of the seas
- 'Cannon-shot rule' → 3 nm territorial sea
- 1930: Hague Codification Conference
- 1942: Trinidad & Tobago-Venezuela continental shelf delimitation
- 1945: 'Truman proclamation' on the continental shelf
- 1958: Geneva Conventions on the Law of the Sea
- 1973-82: 'UNCLOS III' → 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
- November 1994: 1982 Convention enters into force
- 90% of all maritime boundary agreements are post-1970

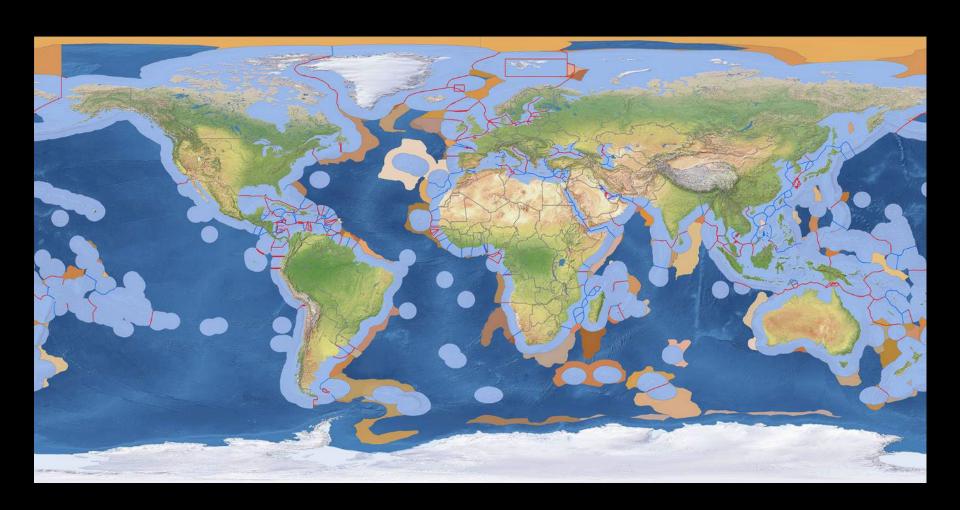
## Maritime jurisdiction under UNCLOS











#### Maritime boundaries: the state of play

- Coastal states: 155
- Potential maritime boundaries: 366 (434 if Canada-USA = 4 etc)
- Boundaries with 1+ signed agreements: **195** (53%)
- Boundaries with 1+ agreements in force: 174
- Total no. of boundary agreements: 297
- 6.4 agreements/year from 1970 to 2004
- 3.2 agreements/year from 2005-20
  - → 60 years to complete all remaining boundaries?

Figures represent IBRU's count based on available data but should not be treated as definitive

#### The purpose and value of maritime boundaries

• Produce an equitable division of maritime space

The delimitation of the EEZ / continental shelf ... shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law ... in order to achieve an equitable solution.

UNCLOS Articles 74 and 83, paragraph 1

- Allow for efficient resource exploitation
- Contribute to the sustainable management of the world's oceans
- Minimise risk of disputes and conflict

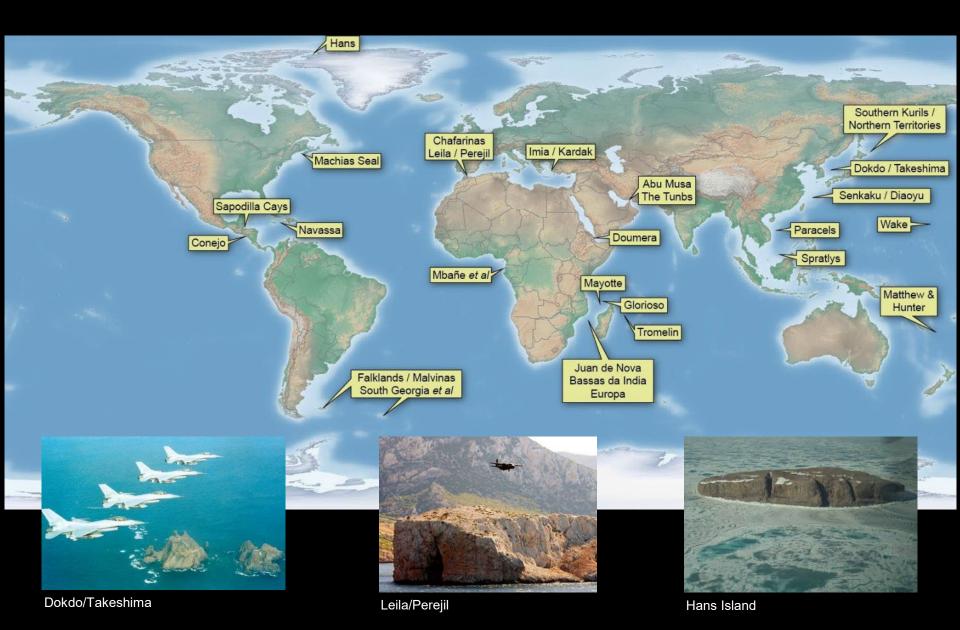
#### Maritime jurisdictional disputes

- 1. Disputes linked to territorial disputes
- 2. Disputes related to maritime claims
- 3. Disputes over what represents an equitable solution in boundary delimitation
- 4. Technical disputes
- 5. Disputes relating to maritime activities

#### Disputes linked to territorial disputes

- Disputed coastal territory
- Positional disputes over land boundary terminus
- Island sovereignty disputes

#### Island sovereignty disputes



#### Disputes related to maritime claims

- Baseline disputes
- Disputes over legal status of small insular features (UNCLOS Article 121(3))
- Maritime zones exceeding UNCLOS limits
- Historic waters claims
- Disputes over treaty interpretation
- Disputes over continental shelf beyond 200 M

# Disputes over what represents an equitable solution in boundary delimitation

- Relevant coastlines
- Coastal configuration
- Coastal length and proportionality
- Use of straight / archipelagic baselines
- Weight accorded to insular features

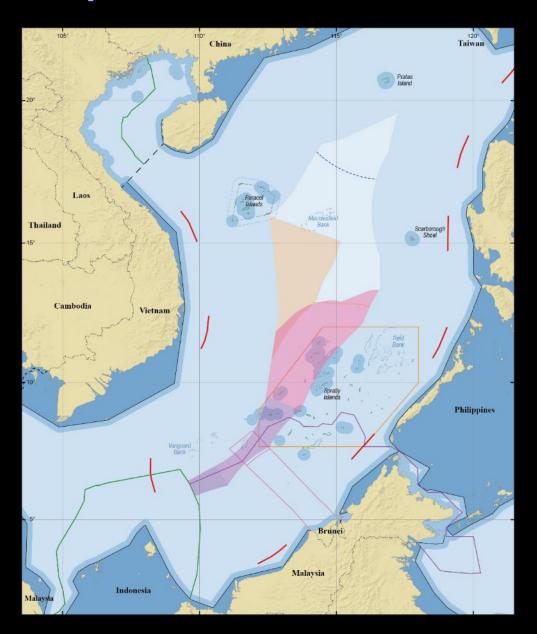
#### Technical disputes in boundary delimitation

- Relevant charts and other sources of geographic information
- Location of relevant base points
- Coordinates
- Type of line

#### Disputes relating to maritime activities

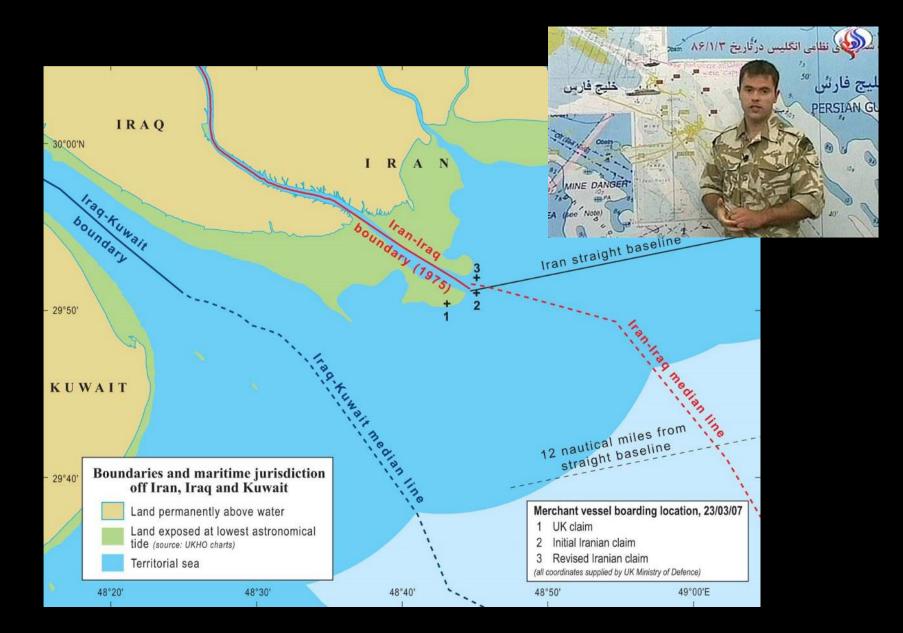
- Restrictions on navigation and overflight
- Fishing
- Hydrocarbon exploration and exploitation
- Laying of pipelines and cables
- Protection of the marine environment
- Marine scientific research

## Disputed boundaries in the South China Sea





#### Maritime boundary uncertainty: Iran-Iraq



## Negotiate, negotiate!



Greece-Turkey



Bhutan-China



Indonesia-Philippines



Ghana-Togo

#### Three thoughts...

We cannot negotiate with those who say 'What's mine is mine and what's yours is negotiable.'

John F. Kennedy

The most difficult thing in any negotiation ... is making sure that you strip it of the emotion and deal with the facts.

Howard Baker

The best negotiators know that negotiation is a collaboration, not a confrontation.

John Patrick Dolan

## Negotiate, negotiate!



Antigua and Barbuda-UK

#### Thank you!



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#### **bordermap** consulting

Geographical intelligence for international boundary-making and dispute resolution