



# The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea of 10 December 1982 and maritime zones - overview

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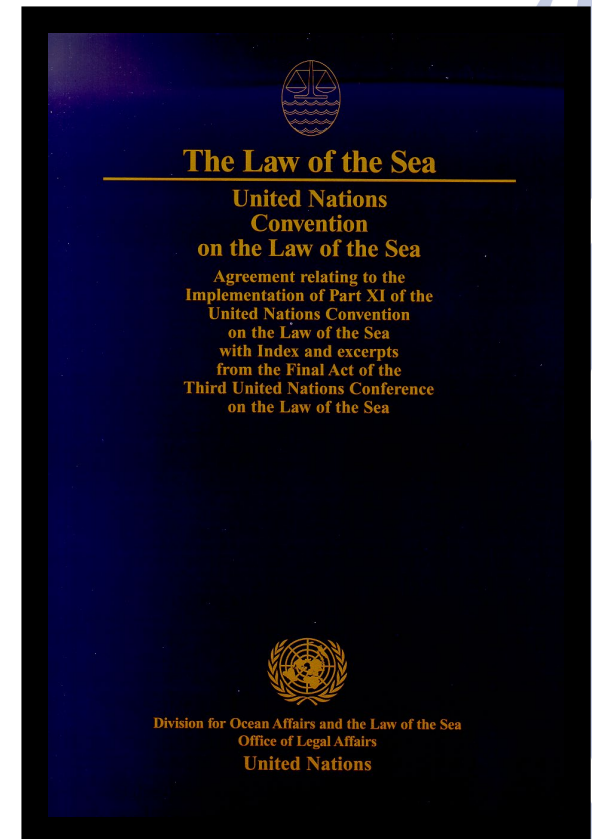
# Outline

- 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS);
- 1982 UNCLOS: Maritime zones;
- 1982 UNCLOS: Deposit of information on outer limits of maritime zones;
- DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions.

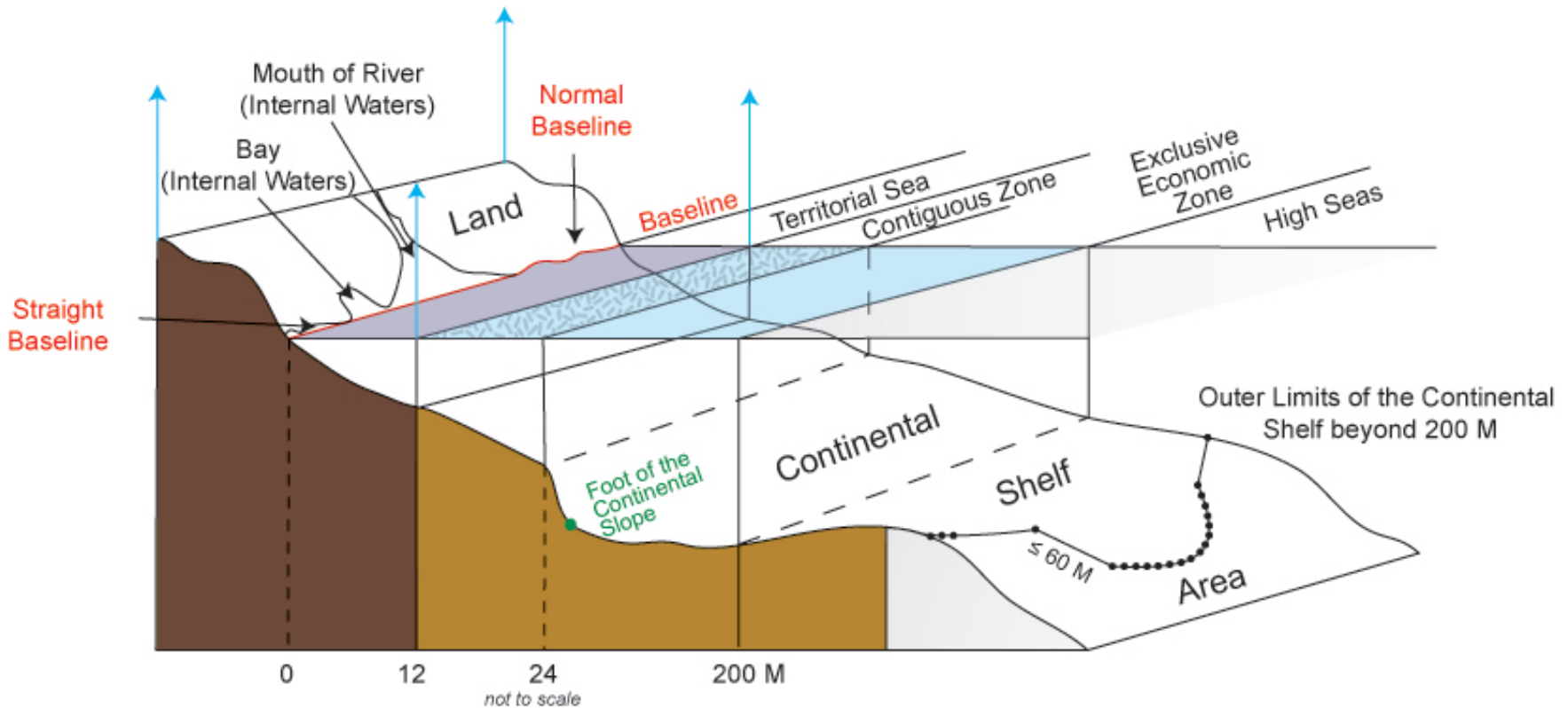


# United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) of 10 December 1982

- “Constitution for the oceans” - legal regime governing all ocean space, 320 articles, 9 annexes
- Convention as a “package”



# 1982 UNCLOS: maritime zones



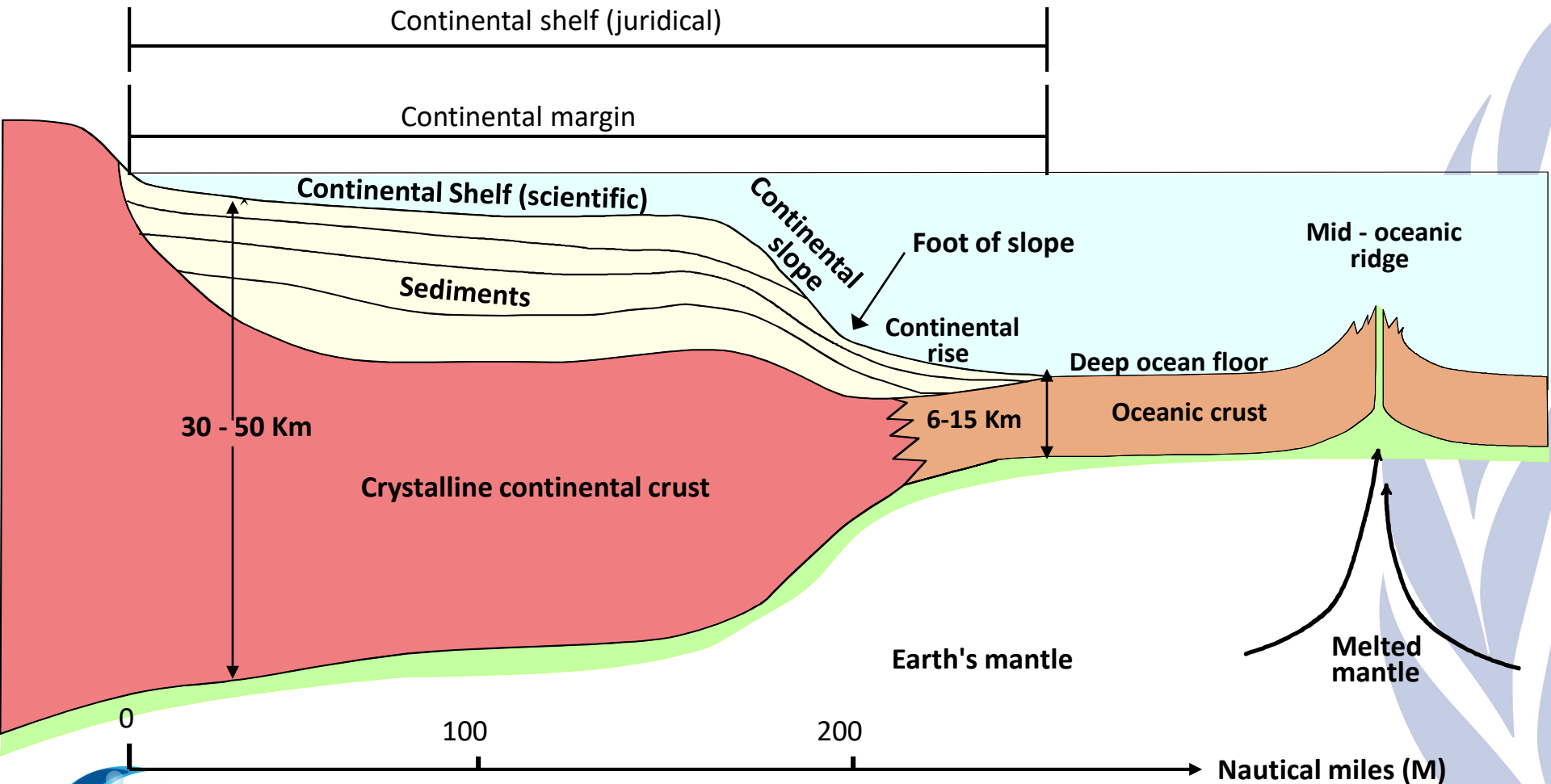
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# 1982 UNCLOS: maritime zones

## Continental Shelf - scientific vs. legal concept



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# 1982 UNCLOS: maritime zones

## Status

<b>Coastal State: Sovereignty</b>	<b>Coastal State: Sovereign rights, obligations and/or jurisdiction</b>	<b>Areas beyond national jurisdiction: rights and obligations of States as members of the international community</b>
Internal waters	Contiguous zone	High Seas
Archipelagic waters	Exclusive economic zone	The Area
Territorial sea	Continental shelf	



# 1982 UNCLOS: maritime zones

## Uses of the sea

S-Sovereignty J – Jurisdiction SR – Sovereign Rights F – Freedom IP – Innocent passage AP- Archipelagic sea lane passage	Sovereignty, sovereign rights and freedoms in maritime zones						
	Internal Waters	Archipelagic Waters	Territorial Sea	Exclusive Economic Zone	Continental Shelf	High Seas	
Navigation	S (IP)	IP AP	IP (AP)	F	-	F	
Overflight	S	AP	S (AP)	F	-	F	-
Laying of submarine cables and pipelines	S	S	S	F limited	F limited	F (art.112)	
Constructing artificial islands and other installations	S	S	S	J	J	F	
Fishing	S	S	S	SR	SR	F	-
Exploration and exploitation of non-living resources	S	S	S	SR	SR	-	
Marine scientific research	S	S	S	J	J	F	
Protection of the marine environment	S	S	S	J	J	Obligation	





# 1982 UNCLOS: Deposit of information on outer limits of maritime zones

- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea provides for the deposit of charts or list of geographical coordinates, and due publicity thereto;
- The deposit of charts or of lists of geographical coordinates of points is an international act by a State Party to the Convention;
- This act is addressed to the Secretary-General and should:
  - (i) be accompanied by the relevant information,
  - (ii) clearly state the intention to deposit and
  - (iii) specify the relevant article(s) of the Convention and the geodetic datum.



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# 1982 UNCLOS: Deposit of information on outer limits of maritime zones - purpose

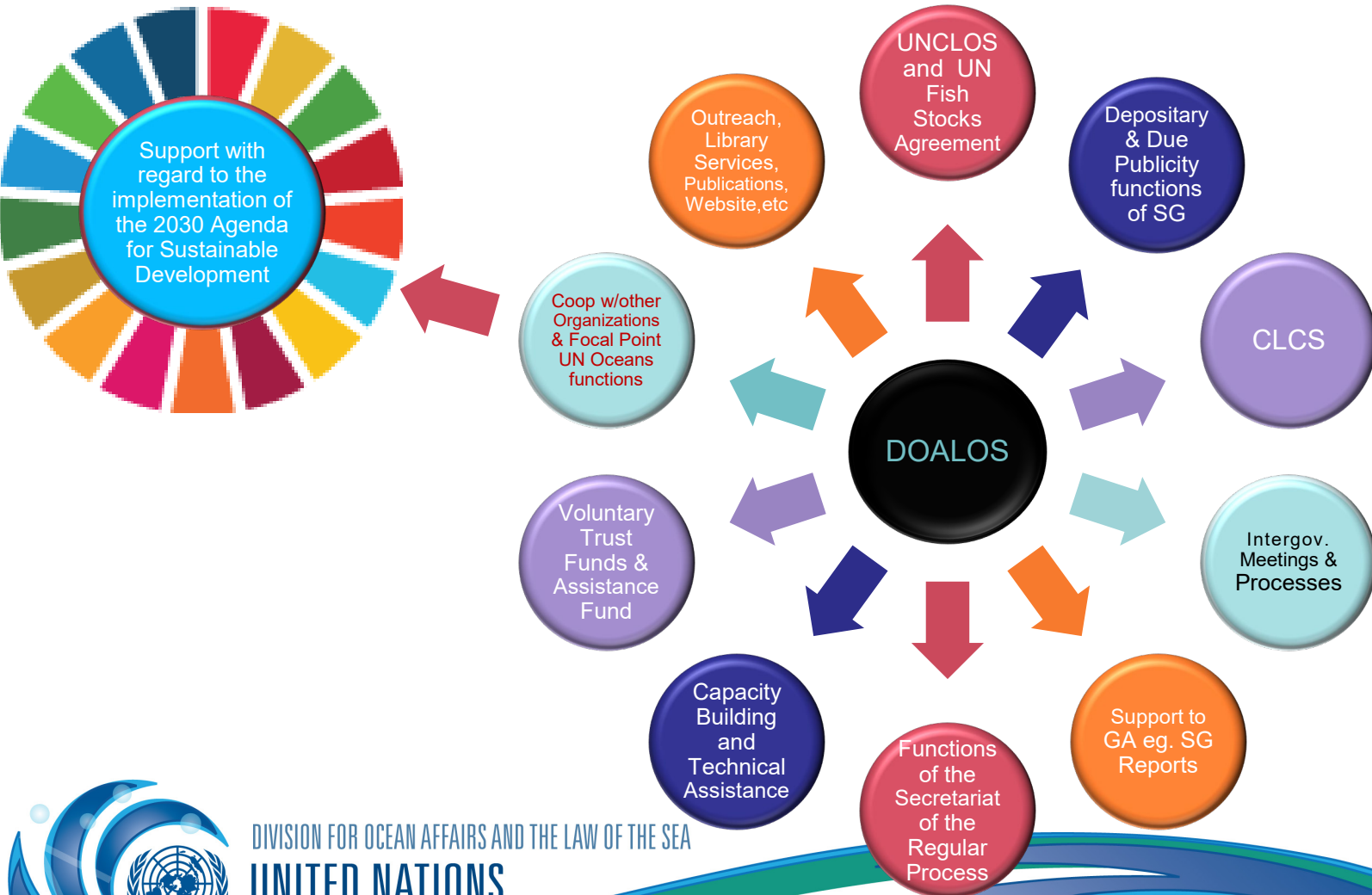
“The objective in making such information available is, inter alia to protect the sovereignty/sovereign rights/jurisdiction of coastal States in their maritime zones; and to prevent the infringements of coastal States’ sovereign rights over natural resources of the exclusive economic zone or the continental shelf or their jurisdiction over activities, installations, etc., related to these resources.”



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# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions



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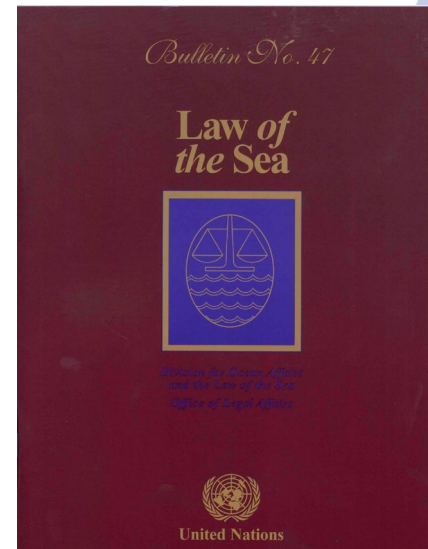


# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Law of the Sea Bulletins and website

- The texts of the relevant legislation and treaties frequently together with illustrative maps are published in the *Law of the Sea Bulletin*.
- The information is also published on the website of DOALOS:

[www.un.org/Depts/los](http://www.un.org/Depts/los)





# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Technical standards

- Lack of clarity whether straight baselines and outer limits of maritime zones were generated as geodesic lines connecting deposited points;
- List of geographic coordinates of points along the outer limits of maritime zones and straight baselines are not always provided;
- Geodetic datum is not always specified;
- Conversion the geographic coordinates of points to WGS 84 or other common geodetic datum has to be done by third parties.





# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Technical standards

A/RES/59/24, 4 February 2005

“6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to improve the existing Geographic Information System for the deposit by States of charts and geographical coordinates concerning maritime zones, including lines of delimitation, submitted in compliance with the Convention, and to give due publicity thereto, in particular by implementing, in cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the International Hydrographic Organization, the technical standards for the collection, storage and dissemination of the information deposited, in order to ensure compatibility among the Geographic Information System, electronic nautical charts and other systems developed by these organizations;”



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# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Technical standards

- Definition of feature classes describing outer limits of maritime zones and international maritime boundaries in S-100;
- Provision of guidance to States Parties to UNCLOS to, if they wish so, structure their deposit for the purpose of data exchange in compliance with this technical standard.





# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Technical standards

### Direct benefits:

- Greater and unified accuracy of the location of outer limits of maritime zone;
- Compliance with other internationally adopted standards and consequently easier integration of the information into products such as electronic nautical charts;
- Guidance for capacity building at national level to maintain national information systems on outer limits of maritime zones and maritime boundaries;
- Reliable and authoritative data available to States at no cost;
- Harmonization of national legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.







# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Technical standards

### Indirect benefits:

- Increased number of deposits;
- Additional tool to contribute to the safety of navigation;
- Additional tool to contribute to environmental protection including vulnerable marine ecosystems;
- Additional tool to Improve the management of resources.



# DOALOS: depository and due publicity functions

## Other related functions

- Support and services to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf;
- Assistance by the Secretary-General in the peaceful settlement of disputes;
- Advice and assistance to States;
- Assistance to the United Nations system;
- Cooperation with other UNCLOS bodies – International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, International Seabed Authority.



# Thank you!

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