



REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

TREATY BETWEEN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU CONCERNING THEIR MARITIME BOUNDARIES (RATIFICATION) ACT NO. 33 OF 2016

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REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

Assent: 26/01/2017
Commencement: 13/02/2017

TREATY BETWEEN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU CONCERNING THEIR MARITIME BOUNDARIES (RATIFICATION) ACT NO. 33 OF 2016

An Act to provide for the ratification of the Treaty between the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu concerning their Maritime Boundaries.

Be it enacted by the President and Parliament as follows-

1 Ratification

The Treaty between the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu concerning their Maritime Boundaries is ratified.

A copy of the Treaty is attached.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day on which it is published in the Gazette.



**TREATY
BETWEEN
THE SOLOMON ISLANDS
AND
THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU
CONCERNING
THEIR
MARITIME BOUNDARIES**

**TREATY BETWEEN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF
VANUATU CONCERNING THEIR MARITIME BOUNDARIES**

THE SOVEREIGN STATE OF THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU;

DESIRING to strengthen the bonds of friendship and cultural ties between the two States, based upon historical linkage that is founded in the spirit of Melanesia whilst respecting international norms;

AGREED to the Memorandum of Settlement signed in Honiara, Solomon Island on the 12th day of November 2015;

RECOGNIZING the need to effect a precise and equitable delimitation of their respective exclusive economic zone, where the two states, each exercise sovereign rights;

CONSISTENT with the rules and principles of international law as reflected in the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, done at Montego Bay on 10 December 1982, to which both the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu are State parties, and, in particular, Article 74 and 83 which provide that the delimitation of the exclusive economic zone and continental shelf between States with opposite or adjacent coasts shall be effected by agreement on the basis of international law in order to achieve an equitable solution;

HAVE AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

Article 1

Maritime Boundary between the Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu

1. The line of delimitation between the exclusive economic zones and continental shelves over which each State respectively exercises sovereign rights and jurisdiction in accordance with international law lies seaward of Rennell-Bellona-Indispensable Reef Archipelago, Main Group Archipelago, Santa Cruz Archipelago, Tikopia and Fatutaka in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu Archipelago in the Republic of Vanuatu respectively, along geodesics connecting the following points, defined by their coordinates (expressed in WGS84) in the order stated below:

SI_VANU_MBO1	14.834167	S	163.166667	E
SI_VANU_MBO2	13.62809	S	163.57411	E
SI_VANU_MBO3	12.62355	S	164.14610	E
SI_VANU_MBO4	12.16266	S	165.53785	E
SI_VANU_MBO5	12.50774	S	167.27557	E
SI_VANU_MBO6	12.78026	S	168.22967	E
SI_VANU_MBO7	14.96638	S	171.59455	E

2. The line of delimitation referred to in paragraph 1 of this article is partially diverted from the equidistance between the Republic of Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.
3. The points defined by geographic coordinates in paragraph 1 of this Article are determined by reference to the World Geodetic System 1984 ("WGS 84").
4. The Lines described in paragraph 1 of this Article is drawn for illustrative purposes only on the chart forming Annex 1 to this Agreement.

Article 2

Extended Continental Shelf

If it becomes necessary to extend the delimitation referred to in article 1 for the purpose of furthering delimiting the continental shelf adjacent to Solomon Islands and the Republic of Vanuatu, which are beyond their respective exclusive economic zones, that line shall be extended by agreement in accordance with international law.

Article 3

Sovereign Rights

The line described above in article 1 of this Agreement shall define the maritime boundary between the exclusive zones and continental shelves over which the Parties exercise, or will exercise, sovereign rights and jurisdiction under international law.

Article 4

Dispute Resolution

Any dispute arising between the parties concerning the interpretation or the application of this Agreement shall be resolved peacefully by consultation and negotiation in the spirit of our common cultural norms and in accordance with international law and best practice.

Article 5

Adjustment to Maritime Boundary

In the event that new surveys reveal significant adjustments to the location of base point coordinates that require adjustments of the maritime boundary, the Parties shall consult with the view to agreeing upon any necessary adjustment to the line described in Article 1, applying the same principles as those used in determining the maritime boundary, and such adjustments shall be provided for in a Protocol to this Agreement

Article 6

Agreed GIS software for determination of Median Line

The parties agree to use the most appropriate and current GIS software for determination of median line and adjustments to the maritime boundary.

Article 7

Non-living Marine Resources Straddling the Boundary

If any single accumulation or deposit of non-living marine resources extends across the maritime boundary line described in Article 1, and if one Party by exploiting that accumulation or deposit would withdraw, deplete, or draw down the portion of the accumulation or deposit that is on the other Party's side of the boundary line, then before the accumulation or deposit is exploited, the Parties shall consult with a view toward reaching an agreement on the manner in which the accumulation or deposit may be most effectively exploited and on the equitable sharing of the benefits from such exploitation.

Article 8

Notification

Each Party to this Agreement shall notify the other of the completion of its national process to bring this Agreement into force.

Article 9

Agreement Deposit

Upon the completion of all national process bringing this Agreement into force, each party shall take all the necessary steps to lodge this Agreement, including the Coordinates in Article 1, with the appropriate International Bodies.



Article 10

Entry into Force

This Agreement shall enter into force on the date of ratification.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the representatives of the two States, being duly authorized for this purpose, have signed this Agreement and have affixed thereto their seals.

DONE in duplicate at Motalava, Torba Province, Republic of Vanuatu

on this FRIDAY...October SEVENTH...2016 in the English and French language.

FOR THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU



Hon. Maneseh Damukana Sogovare
Prime Minister of the Solomon Islands



Hon. Charlot Salwai Tabimasmass
Prime Minister of the Republic of Vanuatu

ANNEX 1





MARITIME BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS AND THE REPUBLIC OF VANUATU

