

Note No: 26/09

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, and has the honour to refer to the deposit by the Government of the Republic of Mauritius of charts and lists of geographical co-ordinates, pursuant to Article 16, paragraph 2, and Article 47, paragraph 9 of the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea ("the Convention"), as reported in Circular Note M.Z.N. 63. 2008. LOS of 27 June 2008.

The United Kingdom wishes to protest strongly against the above deposit in so far as the Government of the Republic of Mauritius are purporting to exercise rights over the territory of the United Kingdom by including in their claim the British Indian Ocean Territory in a list of geographical coordinates of points representing the basepoints and defining the baselines from which the maritime zones of Mauritius shall be measured, together with the chart entitled "Chagos Archipelago: Archipelagic Baselines".

The United Kingdom wishes to state

- a. that the British Indian Ocean Territory is an Overseas Territory of the United Kingdom;
- b. the UK has no doubts over its sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory; and
- c. a 200 nautical mile Environmental (Protection and Preservation) Zone was established around this Territory on 17 September 2003 and a list of geographical co-ordinates establishing the outer limits of this zone was deposited pursuant to article 75, paragraph 2 of the Convention and subsequently published in the Law of the Sea Bulletin No. 54.

Consequently, no other State is entitled to claim maritime zones deriving from the British Indian Ocean Territory.

The Government of the United Kingdom requests the Secretary-General to record and circulate this declaration and publish the same in the Law of the Sea Bulletin No.69, the Law of the Sea Information Circular and any other relevant publication issued by the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom to the United Nations takes this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.



United Kingdom Mission

to the United Nations

19 March 2009