Note No. 11131/11

17 May 2011

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to refer to the latter’s communication M.Z.N.74.2009.IOS (Maritime Zone Notification) dated 18 December 2009 relating to the deposit by France of “a list of geographical coordinates of points defining the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Tromelin Island and Reunion Island”.

The Republic of Mauritius wishes to protest strongly against the deposit by France with the Secretary-General of the United Nations of a list of geographical coordinates of points purporting to define the outer limits of the exclusive economic zone of Tromelin Island in as much as France is purporting to exercise rights over Tromelin Island which forms an integral part of the territory of the Republic of Mauritius.

The Republic of Mauritius reiterates that it has full and complete sovereignty over Tromelin Island, including its maritime zones. In this regard, it had deposited on 20 June 2008 with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a list of geographical coordinates of points in respect of Tromelin Island and a chart entitled “Tromelin: Basepoints”, Scale 1:12,500; Datum WGS 84; January 2007, as reported in the Secretary-General’s communication M.Z.N.63.2008.LOS (Maritime Zone Notification) dated 27 June 2008.

The Republic of Mauritius had also formally protested on 1 March 1978 against the purported establishment by France on 3 February 1978 of an exclusive economic zone off the coast of Tromelin Island.
The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius would appreciate if the above declaration could be duly recorded, circulated and published in the next Law of the Sea Bulletin, the Law of the Sea Information Circular and any other relevant publication issued by the United Nations.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Secretary-General of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York