

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



2022/UN/N/25

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Maldives to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to state the following with respect to the “Partial Submission” submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (‘CLCS’) by the Republic of Mauritius on 12 April 2022 concerning the extension of its continental shelf in the Northern Chagos Archipelago Region (‘the 2022 Partial Submission’).

The Permanent Mission refers to its previous Note Verbale dated 15 July 2021. As explained in that Note Verbale:

- 1) In June 2019, Mauritius commenced proceedings against the Maldives with respect to the delimitation of the maritime boundary between the Maldives and the Chagos Archipelago, and the dispute was referred by agreement of the Parties to a Special Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (‘ITLOS’) (‘the Proceedings’).
- 2) On 25 May 2021, one day prior to the time limit fixed for submission of its Memorial, Mauritius filed an “Amended Preliminary Information” with the CLCS (‘the 2021 Preliminary Information’), deployed in its Memorial to justify a new claim by Mauritius to a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles from the baselines from which its territorial sea is measured that overlaps extensively with the area claimed by the Maldives in its full submission to the CLCS of 26 July 2010 (‘Mauritius’ OCS Claim’).

The Proceedings remain pending and the 2022 Partial Submission (which was filed two days prior to the time limit fixed for submission of Mauritius’ Reply in the Proceedings) is deployed in its Reply to further justify Mauritius’ OCS Claim.

The Permanent Mission wishes to inform the Secretariat that, as with the 2021 Preliminary Information, it does not consider it appropriate to respond to the 2022 Partial Submission, given that the matters it raises relates to pending proceedings before the ITLOS Special Chamber. The Permanent Mission wishes to further notify the Secretariat and the Commission that the Government of Maldives has a number of serious concerns and observations regarding the 2022 Partial Submission. Accordingly, the Permanent Mission affirms that the Government of Maldives reserves its right to fully respond to the 2022 Partial Submission in due course.

The Permanent Mission further wishes to confirm that the position expressed in this Note Verbale by the Government of Maldives is without prejudice to any position which the Government of Maldives may assert in the pending proceedings before the ITLOS Special Chamber or in any other response to the 2022 Partial Submission.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if this Note Verbale could be circulated amongst all Member States and to the CLCS.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Maldives 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



New York, 13 June 2022

The Secretary-General of the United Nations
(Attn: Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea) United
Nations Headquarters
New York