



## PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS TO THE UNITED NATIONS

27 November 2017

### 2018 Informal Consultative Process on “Anthropogenic underwater noise”<sup>1</sup>

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations and would like to refer to the Note (Ref.: LOS/SGR/2018/1/ST) dated 10 October 2017 from your esteemed office requesting for contribution of Member States on the theme of "Anthropogenic Underwater Noise".

In view thereof, the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations is herewith submitting the following inputs in relation to the subject matter to the kind attention of the esteemed Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations:

1. The Republic of Mauritius is currently developing the legal regime to allow exploration and exploitation of non-living resources in its maritime zones.
2. The regime also includes an Environmental Code of Practice which sets out the guidelines for minimizing the risk of injury and disturbance to marine mammals from seismic surveys. Some of the measures include:
  - a. To take appropriate steps to determine what marine mammal species are likely to be present in the survey area and assess if there are any seasonal considerations that need to be taken into account, for example periods of migration, breeding or calving and plan surveys so that the timing will reduce the likelihood of encounters with marine mammals;
  - b. To only commence seismic activities during the hours of daylight when visual mitigation using Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) is possible;
  - c. To use the lowest practicable power levels to achieve the geophysical objectives of the survey;
  - d. To seek methods to reduce and/or baffle unnecessary high frequency noise produced by the airguns;
  - e. To establish a mitigation zone prior to the survey to take into account the resulting sound propagation during the survey; and
  - f. To use trained observers, either Marine Mammal Observers (MMOs) or Passive Acoustic Monitoring (PAM) observers, during seismic surveys.
3. Moreover, given the objective of the the Government of the Republic of Mauritius to promote marine scientific research to further understand its maritime zones (internal water, archipelagic water, territorial sea, Exclusive Economic Zones and continental shelf) including its ecosystem and biodiversity, the Maritime Zones (Conduct of Marine Scientific Research) Regulations 2017 were established on 10 April 2017.

---

<sup>1</sup> This contribution has been reformatted.

These regulations provide for the requirements for a State or competent international organization to conduct research in any area of maritime zones of Mauritius. Authorization was granted to carry out research in the maritime zones of Mauritius to compile information on whales (sperm whales and humpback whales).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Mauritius to the United Nations avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations the assurances of its highest consideration.

(R. Bukoree)  
for Head of Mission