

*Translated from French*

## **Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations**

SG/sec

No. 378

The Permanent Mission of France to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and has the honour to convey the following:

France notes that on 20 June 2008, the Government of Mauritius deposited with the Secretary-General of the United Nations a chart entitled "Tromelin: point of reference", scale 1/12 500, World Geodetic System 1984 (WGS 84), January 2007.

France believes that this deposit, which suggests that Mauritius exercises sovereignty over the island of Tromelin, is not compatible with the French territorial status which this island has had since 1722 and declares that it does not recognize the deposit as having any legal effect.

France adds that:

- It has full and complete sovereignty over Tromelin Island;
- A zone of 200 nautical miles was established off the coast of the island of Tromelin on 3 February 1978 and a list of geographical coordinates specifying the outer limit lines of that zone was deposited pursuant to article 75, paragraph 2, of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea;
- Accordingly, it believes that no other State is entitled to claim the maritime areas adjacent to the island of Tromelin.

The Government of the French Republic requests the Secretary-General to register this declaration and to publish it in the next issue of the Law of the Sea Bulletin, in the Law of the Sea Information Circular and in any other relevant United Nations publication.

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

New York, 30 July 2009

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Office of Legal Affairs  
Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law  
of the Sea  
Office DC2-0450