



Note No: 004/23

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary General of the United Nations and, with reference to his communication of 13 June 2022 Ref.: CLCS.91.2022.LOS (Continental Shelf Notification), regarding receipt of the submission made by the Republic of Mauritius on 12 April 2022 to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and with reference to Article 46 of and Annex I to the Rules of Procedure of the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf, has the honour to convey the following:

Further to the UK's Note No 147/19, there is an ongoing dispute between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Mauritius with respect to sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (the Chagos Islands). The UK and Mauritius have decided to begin negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)/Chagos Archipelago. The joint United Kingdom/Republic of Mauritius Written Ministerial Statement of 3 November 2022 is attached. For that reason the United Kingdom, for now, does not consent to consideration by the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf and paragraph 5(a) of Annex I to the Rules of Procedure continues to be applicable.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 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.



United Kingdom Mission  
to the United Nations

19 January 2023

**Statement made by James Cleverly MP, Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs on 3 November 2022**

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'Following the meeting between the then Prime Minister, my Rt Hon Friend the Member for South West Norfolk, and Prime Minister Jugnauth at the UN General Assembly, the UK and Mauritius have decided to begin negotiations on the exercise of sovereignty over the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT)/Chagos Archipelago.

'Through negotiations, taking into account relevant legal proceedings, it is our intention to secure an agreement on the basis of international law to resolve all outstanding issues, including those relating to the former inhabitants of the Chagos Archipelago. This will allow the UK and Mauritius, as close Commonwealth partners, to work even more closely together to tackle the regional and global security challenges that face us all. We will seek to strengthen significantly our cooperation on Indian Ocean security, maritime security and marine protection, the conservation of the environment, climate change, respect for human rights, and to tackle illegal migration, illegal fishing, drugs and arms trafficking, as well as bilateral cooperation on a range of other issues. We will work to do this in cooperation with key allies and partners in the region.

'The UK and Mauritius have reiterated that any agreement between our two countries will ensure the continued effective operation of the joint UK/US military base on Diego Garcia, which plays a vital role in regional and global security. We recognise the US's and India's interests and will keep them informed of progress.

'The UK and Mauritius have agreed to engage in constructive negotiations, with a view to arriving at an agreement by early next year.'