



2021/UN/N/16

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 “Amended Preliminary Information” submitted to the Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf (CLCS) by the Republic of Mauritius on 24 May 2021 concerning the extension of its continental shelf in the Northern Chagos Archipelago Region (‘the 2021 Preliminary Information’).

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). Those proceedings are pending and are at the stage of written pleadings on the merits.

Mauritius filed the 2021 Preliminary Information with the CLCS one day prior to the time limit fixed for submission of its Memorial, on 25 May 2021. The Memorial refers to and relies on the 2021 Preliminary Information to justify a new claim by Mauritius to a continental shelf beyond 200 nautical miles that overlaps extensively with the area claimed by the Maldives in its full submission to the CLCS of 26 July 2010.

The Permanent Mission wishes to inform the Secretariat and the Commission that the Government of Maldives does not consider it appropriate to respond at the present time, given that the matters raised in Mauritius’ 2021 Preliminary Information 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 Mauritius’ 2021 Preliminary Information. Accordingly, the Permanent Mission affirms that the Government of Maldives reserves its right to fully respond to the 2021 Preliminary Information in due course.

The Permanent Mission further wishes to inform 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 2021 Preliminary Information.

The Permanent Mission would be grateful if this Note Verbal 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, 15 July 2021

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