

**24th Session of IOTC Scientific Committee
6-10 December 2021**

Statement by the FRANCE Overseas Territories

France declares that it does not recognize the Mauritian declaration as having any legal value, because it ignores the fact that the island of Tromelin is a French territory over which France constantly exercises full and complete sovereignty.

Thus, France enjoys the sovereign rights or jurisdiction conferred on it by international law in the Exclusive Economic Zone adjacent to the island of Tromelin. Meetings of Indian Ocean RFMOs are not the place to discuss issues of territorial sovereignty, but France stresses that it will continue to maintain a constructive dialogue with the Republic of Mauritius on this subject.